



# Village of Harrison Hot Springs Parks and Trails Master Plan

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FINAL REPORT  
OCTOBER 2025





*The Village of Harrison Hot Springs respectfully acknowledges that we are located on the traditional unceded territories of Sts'ailes.*



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Executive Summary.....</b>	<b>i</b>
Executive Summary .....	ii
<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Purpose of the Plan .....	2
1.2 Strategic Framework .....	4
<b>2 Context and Background .....</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1 Service Delivery .....	7
2.2 Partnerships and Agreements.....	7
2.3 Investment in Parks and Trails .....	8
2.4 Demographic Profile.....	9
2.5 Parks and Trails Benefits and Trends.....	12
<b>3 Current State .....</b>	<b>14</b>
3.1 Inventory.....	15
3.2 Benchmarking .....	23
3.3 Programming and Events .....	24
<b>4 Engagement .....</b>	<b>25</b>
4.1 Community Engagement.....	26
4.2 Engagement Tools .....	27
<b>5 Vision, Goals, and Recommendations.....</b>	<b>29</b>
5.1 Vision .....	30
5.2 Recommendations .....	30
<b>6 Implementation Plan.....</b>	<b>40</b>
6.1 Implementation Plan.....	41
<b>Appendices .....</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Appendix A: Parks and Trails Inventory and Benchmarking.....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Appendix B: Parkland Acquisition Criteria .....</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Appendix C: Parks Maintenance Standard.....</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Appendix D: Engagement Summary – What We Heard Report .....</b>	<b>62</b>

# Executive Summary



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Harrison Hot Springs has an excellent variety of parks, trails, and outdoor recreation amenities for a community of its size, supported by committed staff, strong working partnerships, and passionate volunteers.

This Plan focuses on addressing existing gaps in the Village's park and trail network, upgrading and expanding parks and trails to accommodate users of different abilities and interests, and improving the Village's capacity to effectively and sustainably manage parks and trails.

The Village of Harrison Hot Springs outlines the vision and priorities for parks and trails service delivery and capital investment over the next 15 years.

The plan was developed collaboratively with the Village of Harrison Hot Springs and was guided by input from the community and interest-holders. Engagement participants were largely satisfied with the variety and availability of park amenities in the Village, and valued Village parks and trails for their ability to support passive recreation and community events. Participants wanted to see the Village improve its park and trail network to accommodate residents and visitors with a wider range of ages, abilities, and interests.

Informed by two rounds of community engagement, the plan identifies a vision, goals, and recommendations to guide strategic decision-making on the operations, management, and development of parks and trails in Harrison Hot Springs.

### The Vision Statement:

*The Village of Harrison Hot Springs will:*

***Grow and maintain*** the parks and trails system to meet the changing needs of residents and visitors.

***Promote*** equitable access for all park and trail users.

***Support*** community connections, public safety, and healthy lifestyles for all residents.

***Protect and enhance*** its natural setting through environmental stewardship and sustainable management practices.

***Strengthen*** its capacity to manage parks and trails and adapt to new challenges.

The Plan identifies 33 recommendations under seven goals to improve the quality and supply of parks and trails in Harrison Hot Springs. The goals and recommendations are summarized in the table on the following pages.

## GOAL 1: ENHANCE THE VILLAGE'S CAPACITY TO MANAGE PARKS, TRAILS, AND PARK AMENITIES

Recommendation		Priority
1.1	Update the Village's existing inventory to develop a comprehensive parks and trails inventory and asset management system.	High
1.2	Develop maintenance standards for parks and trails.	High
1.3	Adopt a boulevard bylaw.	High
1.4	Explore formalizing access to trails that cross private land with private landowners.	Medium

## GOAL 2: DEVELOP MANAGEMENT PRACTICES THAT ENHANCE ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY AND IMPROVE MAINTENANCE EFFICIENCY

Recommendation		Priority
2.1	Develop an invasive species management plan.	Medium
2.2	Install irrigation systems in horticultural beds.	High
2.3	Explore the implementation of rain gardens and bioswales.	Medium
2.4	Adopt horticultural bed planting schemes to include low-maintenance, climate-resilient, and native species.	High
2.5	Explore enhancing parks and restoring natural areas with native plantings.	Medium
2.6	Continue installing bear-proof garbage receptacles.	Medium
2.7	Continue to electrify the Village's vehicle fleet and maintenance equipment.	Medium

Recommendation		Priority
2.8	Continue implementing the recommendations of the Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP).	High
2.9	Continue implementing the recommendations of the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP).	High
<b>GOAL 3: FACILITATE EASY NAVIGATION OF PARKS AND TRAILS</b>		
Recommendation		Priority
3.1	Update the Village parks and trails maps.	Medium
3.2	Develop a parks, trails, and active transportation network signage strategy.	Medium
<b>GOAL 4: EXPAND THE VILLAGE'S PARK SYSTEM</b>		
Recommendation		Priority
4.1	Explore opportunities to acquire land in the Village's south to develop a future community park.	High
4.2	Explore opportunities to acquire lots adjacent to Spring Park for future expansion.	Low
<b>GOAL 5: IMPROVE THE QUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND ACCESSIBILITY OF PARK AMENITIES</b>		
Recommendation		Priority
5.1	Identify a location for an off-leash dog park.	High
5.2	Develop Fire Hall Park as a community park with amenities.	High
5.3	Explore adding water-based recreation amenities to the Village's Lakefront.	High

Recommendation		Priority
5.4	Continue to inspect and retire outdoor fitness equipment as it reaches its end of life and explore new uses for the area above the beachfront washrooms.	Low
5.5	Continue to update parks with accessible amenities.	High
5.6	Explore developing a partnership with School District 78 to co-manage school fields and sports amenities for school and community use.	Medium
<b>GOAL 6: IMPROVE THE QUALITY, CONNECTEDNESS, AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE VILLAGE TRAIL NETWORK</b>		
Recommendation		Priority
6.1	Improve pathway connections to Rendall Park.	High
6.2	Work with the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) to upgrade the East Sector Lands trail network and improve connections to the Village.	High
6.3	Work with private landowners and the FVRD to establish an additional East Sector Lands trailhead at the southern intersection of Naismith Ave and McCombs Dr.	Medium
6.4	Work with private landowners and FVRD to formalize trail connections in the Village's northeast.	Medium
6.5	Improve the user experience of the Miami River Greenway.	Medium
6.6	Work with Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) to improve the Campbell Lake Trail trailhead.	Medium
6.7	Explore working with RSTBC, the District of Kent, the FVRD, and the Harrison Hot Springs Resort to develop a trail on the Village's west slope to create a village loop trail.	Low

GOAL 7: PROMOTE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION		
Recommendation		Priority
7.1	Plan to improve trail user safety on the McCombs Drive Trail.	Medium
7.2	Continue to implement the active transportation recommendations of the Road, Bridges, and Active Transportation Plan (RBAT).	High

# Introduction



The Village of Harrison Hot Springs (the Village) is a vibrant community with a population of 1,905, located at the southern end of Harrison Lake in the Fraser Valley Regional District. As a Resort Municipality, tourism plays a crucial role in the local economy, drawing over half a million visitors each year. People come to enjoy the hot springs for health benefits, the scenic beauty of the lake and forests, the charming village center, and the abundant outdoor recreation opportunities.

Parks and trails are popular among both residents and visitors. The parks along the lakeshore, including the Harrison Lagoon and Rendall Park, offer scenic views, swimming, and opportunities for play, relaxation, and socializing. Spring Park offers sports courts and a play area. The Village's trail network is prized by the community for offering diverse outdoor experiences, from gentle nature walks to rewarding day hikes.

Harrison Hot Springs parks are home to several annual events for residents and visitors. The Village is also working to provide more winter activities, such as a skating rink and a holiday light showcase, to offer better year-round programming.

With parks and trails serving such an important role in the quality of life and vibrant economy, the Village of Harrison Hot Springs is working to improve its park and trail system to ensure high-quality park and outdoor recreation experiences for residents while adapting to the changing needs of the community. Through these enhancements, the Village also aims to strengthen its brand and develop a more sustainable tourism sector, attracting permanent residents and year-round visitors who support local businesses and initiatives.

## **1.1 PURPOSE OF THE PLAN**

The Village of Harrison Hot Springs Parks and Trails Master Plan outlines the strategic direction for parks and trails within the Village over the next 15 years. The planning process involved assessing existing parks, trails, and outdoor park amenities, reviewing past and current planning initiatives, and incorporating community feedback to identify challenges and opportunities for the future. Building on these elements, the document outlines a vision, goals, and recommendations to guide planning and investment in parks and trails and to support informed decision-making.

## PROJECT PROCESS

The Parks and Trails Master Plan process included the following five phases:

- **Phase 1 – *Start-up, Inventory, and Analysis*:** The project began with discussions with staff, background research, examining relevant plans and regulations, and reviewing the inventory of parks, trails, and park amenities.
- **Phase 2 – *Round 1 Community Engagement*:** This phase focused on introducing the project to the community, understanding their values and priorities, and identifying challenges and opportunities related to parks and trails within the Village.
- **Phase 3 – *Draft Parks and Trails Master Plan*:** A preliminary plan was created based on the information and community input collected in earlier phases. This draft included a proposed vision along with supporting goals and recommendations.
- **Phase 4 – *Round 2 Community Engagement*:** The draft vision, goals, and recommendations were presented to the community for further feedback, which helped refine the plan and prioritize the recommendations.
- **Phase 5 – *Final Parks and Trails Master Plan*:** The final plan, which included an implementation strategy, was presented to the Village Council for approval.

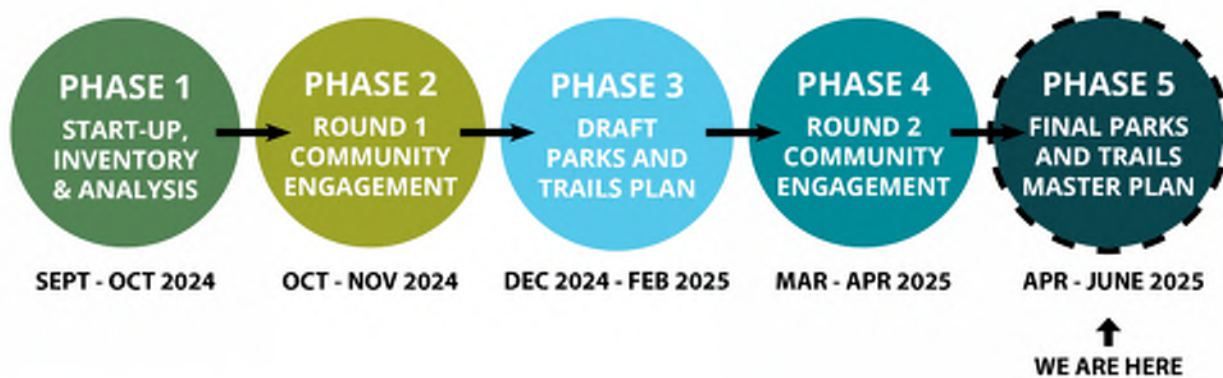


Figure 1 Parks and Trails Master Plan Timeline

## 1.2 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The development of a comprehensive Parks and Trails Master Plan was identified as a strategic priority in the Village of Harrison Hot Springs Council Strategic Plan 2023. The implementation of the Parks and Trails Master Plan is stated as a priority action for infrastructure development in the Council Strategic Plan 2025-2026. Development of a Parks and Trails Master Plan complies with recommendations from the Urban Forest Management Plan (recommendation 3) and the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (recommendation 4).

### 1.2.1 RELEVANT PLANS & POLICIES

Several plans and policies influenced the development of this Parks and Trails Master Plan. The summary below highlights these documents and their significance to the Plan. Many of the recommendations and initiatives from these existing plans have been integrated into this Parks and Trails Master Plan.

#### Official Community Plan 2022

The Official Community Plan (OCP) outlines the objectives and policies governing land use planning in the Village. The OCP outlines the Village's guiding vision and goals and describes the location, justification and guidelines for each of the Village's development permit areas. Some of the permit areas have implications for parks and trails, including the development of the beachfront and planning considerations for carbon sequestration, riparian protection, and wildfire preparedness. The plan outlines high-level planning objectives for the parks system and provides an inventory of existing parks and open spaces.

#### Resort Development Strategy 2025/26-2027/28

The Resort Development Strategy (RDS) highlights opportunities to boost tourism in the Village by improving parks, trails, and park amenities and increasing programming opportunities throughout the year. The strategy identifies completed Resort Municipality Initiative (RMI) projects that have been implemented to enhance parks and public spaces. The RDS also outlines proposed projects, such as streetscape improvements, amenity improvements in the East Sector Lands, adding Indigenous interpretive signage, and adding a splash pad. The public engagement findings from the Parks and Trails Master Plan have informed some of the proposed projects.

#### Tourism Harrison River Valley One-Year Tactical Plan

This Plan contains key objectives, strategies, and performance indicators to guide tourism development in Harrison Hot Springs. The Plan outlines proposed programming initiatives, opportunities to improve and build new tourism amenities, and strategies to minimize the environmental impacts of tourism.

#### Lagoon Area Master Plan

This Plan proposes design strategies to remediate the Harrison Hot Springs Lagoon and parking area. It outlines several park improvements, including pathway upgrades, planting, earthworks, and site furnishing, as well as layout improvements to better accommodate events. Improvements outlined in the Plan are anticipated to be completed in 2025.

### **Harrison Hot Springs Waterfront Dike Concept Design**

This concept design outlines the potential upgrades to be conducted by the Village to mitigate damage along the Harrison Lake lakeshore. Diking is being explored to protect buildings and infrastructure built below floodplain levels. Upgrades may impact the layout of the Lakefront Beach and its connections to Harrison's commercial core.

### **Urban Forest Management Plan**

The Urban Forest Management Plan outlines the strategy for managing specimen trees and natural forest areas in Harrison Hot Springs. The Plan contains a prioritized itinerary of recommended tree management action items, including developing staff capacity and collaborating with the FVRD to manage trees, developing a schedule for tree risk assessment and maintenance, developing Village standards for tree protection, removal, and replacement, and addressing identified high-risk trees in the Village.

### **Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan**

This plan builds on Harrison's Community Wildfire Protection Plan, adopted by Council in 2019. This Plan outlines a strategy that includes action items to reduce the risks and impacts of wildfires in Harrison Hot Springs. This includes fuel management in natural areas, the development of trail construction and maintenance standards, the inclusion of wildfire consideration in trail planning, a review of the Urban Forest Management Plan, applying a wildfire risk lens to park acquisition, and the development of landscaping regulations to prevent structure loss. The plan also makes recommendations for emergency planning, including the establishment of a secondary egress route.

### **Road, Bridge, and Active Transportation Master Plan**

This Plan contains the current inventory and assessment of transportation infrastructure in the Village of Harrison Hot Springs. The Plan outlines recommendations to improve active transportation within the village and assess the network's capacity to manage population and tourism growth over time.

### **Parking Master Plan**

This Plan examines the current supply of parking in Harrison Hot Springs, measures current and projected demand, and makes recommendations to accommodate future demand. The Plan also advises the expansion of active transportation as a means of curbing parking demand.

### **Park Regulation – Bylaw No. 1150**

This bylaw regulates the use of parks, beaches, public areas, and boulevards. The bylaw outlines restricted use areas, including areas off-limits to dogs, horses, and recreational use of wheeled vehicles.

# Context and Background



## 2.1 SERVICE DELIVERY

Public Works is responsible for the maintenance and beautification of Village-owned assets, including municipal facilities, the lakeshore, and parks. The Public Works team consists of:

- A Director of Operations;
- Three Utility Technicians;
- A Public Works Supervisor;
- A Parks, Trails, and Horticultural Technician;
- Four Public Works Labourers; and
- Seasonal Labourers.

Public Works collaborates with Community Services on the Resort Municipality Initiative, community events, and environmental initiatives.

## 2.2 PARTNERSHIPS AND AGREEMENTS

### Tourism Harrison River Valley

Harrison Tourism Society (Tourism Harrison River Valley) is a not-for-profit destination marketing organization (DMO). The Board of Directors is made up of representatives from the Village of Harrison Hot Springs, the District of Kent, the Fraser Valley Regional District, and local community organizations. Tourism Harrison provides marketing for Village parks, trails, and events.

### Resort Municipality Initiative (RMI)

As one of British Columbia's 14 designated resort municipalities, the Village of Harrison Hot Springs participates in the Province's Resort Municipality Initiative (RMI). The RMI provides funding for infrastructure and programming investment to grow the Village's tourism sector. Funding is incentive-based and tied to the Village's Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT). Since 2019, the Village of Harrison Hot Springs has received an average of \$518,100 annually from the Resort Municipality Initiative. Projects funded through the RMI include the Village front entrance, playground equipment, garbage receptacles, streetscaping improvements, and the Starlight Skating Rink. Events funded through the RMI include the Family Day concert, Sasquatch Days, Canada Day events, Harrison Festival of the Arts, Bands on the Beach, and Lights by the Lake.

### **Memorial Bench Program**

Individuals may sponsor the installation of benches in Village parks in memoriam of those who have passed. As of 2025, the cost of installation, including the memorial plaque, is \$3,100. The Village is responsible for maintenance over the bench's lifetime of approximately 10 years.

### **Harrison Festival Society**

Housed in the Ranger Station Art Gallery, the Harrison Festival Society organizes Harrison Hot Springs' annual showcase of visual and performing arts, the Harrison Festival of the Arts. The society also runs cultural programming throughout the year.

## **2.3 INVESTMENT IN PARKS AND TRAILS**

Support from the Village of Harrison Hot Springs, the Fraser Valley Regional District, and Trails and Rec Sites BC is crucial in ensuring a high-quality supply of parks and trails for community use and to support tourism. Funding from provincial and federal grant programs has also played a major role in expanding and improving the Village's network of parks and trails, primarily through capital projects.

Harrison Hot Springs invests an average of \$572,319 annually (2020-2024) into parks, recreation, and cultural services. The Village also invests an annual average of \$270,351 in community development (2020-2024). The Village's total revenue has remained steady since 2019. Property taxes account for an average of 49% of total Village revenue (2020-2022). Major grants totalling \$11 million were secured in 2011 to fund dike and beach upgrades along the Village's lakeshore.

### **2.3.1 RECENT AND ONGOING INITIATIVES**

- Beach Improvements (Completed 2022)
- Visitor Information Centre and Sasquatch Museum (Completed Spring 2024)
- Accessible Playground and Shade Structures (Completed Fall 2024)
- Spring Park Washroom and Picnic Shelter (Completed Summer 2025)
- Beach Redevelopment (Completed Spring 2025)
- Waterfront Dike Upgrade Project (Construction anticipated to start in 2027)

## 2.4 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

### COMMUNITY PROFILE

The following demographic analysis is based on the latest census from Statistics Canada, completed in 2021. The current and future demographics are an important consideration for planning parks and trails to balance the needs of the whole community.

The following are key demographic trends:

- **A growing population:** As of 2021, the Village of Harrison Hot Springs had a total of 1,905 residents. Between 2016 and 2021, the population of Harrison Hot Springs grew by 29.8%, three times greater than the rate for the FVRD at 9.5%.
- **High proportion of those age 65 and older:** In 2021, the average age in Harrison Hot Springs was 51.1 years of age, significantly higher than the average age for the FVRD (41.5 years) and British Columbia (43.1 years). Between 2016 and 2021, the population of seniors 65 years and older increased by 38% and now comprises one-third of the population.
- **Growing population of children:** The population of children 14 years and younger grew from 120 in 2016 to 210 in 2021, marking a growth rate of 75%, indicating a growth in young families in the Village. In 2021, youth accounted for 10.8% of the population, lower than 17.6% for the FVRD and 14.3% for British Columbia. Over the next 15 years, the number of youth will likely increase.

### ECONOMIC PROFILE

Economic considerations affect the population and community needs. Parks and trails can have a significant impact on the local economy by attracting tourists, extending tourists' time spent in the community, and attracting new residents and workers who are vital to sustaining local businesses and creating a vibrant community. Economic factors also influence the community's needs and how people use parks and trails. The following are key economic factors and trends.

**Importance of tourism:** The local economy is primarily driven by tourism, sales, and service industries, with other significant sectors including construction, transportation, education and health care services, and public administration. The Harrison Hot Springs Resort is a significant draw for tourists year-round. The Village's lakeshore parks and trails offer swimming, boating, fishing and other activities on the lake during the summer months, and there are special events and activities in the Village's parks year-round. Access to Crown lands, Provincial Recreation Sites, and Sasquatch Provincial Park also draw people to the community, with the Village serving as a service hub and jumping-off point for outdoor recreation.

**Low participation in the workforce:** In 2021, Harrison Hot Springs had a labour force participation rate of 48.1%, lower than British Columbia at 63.3%. This reflects the high proportion of retirees. The rate of unemployment was similar to the provincial average but slightly higher than that of the FVRD. Parks and trails can help attract new residents for the local workforce, which will support the sustainability and success of the tourism sector.

**Low median income:** The median income for households in the Village of Harrison Hot Springs in 2020 was \$67,500, up from \$55,680 in 2015, but lower than both the median income of the FVRD and British Columbia (\$86,000 and \$85,000, respectively). This is likely influenced by the high proportion of those over 65 years of age, many of whom may be retired and may have a low and fixed income. It may also reflect seasonal peaks in employment and the predominance of the service industry. Parks and trails are vital for providing low-cost and free opportunities for people to stay healthy and active, as well as creating community connections that are vital for combating social isolation, supporting mental health and well-being, and retaining residents.

## **TOURISM PROFILE**

The Village of Harrison Hot Springs sees approximately 550,000 visitors each year. Tourism Harrison's target markets are Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley residents. Metro-Vancouver residents are more likely to make overnight stays, and Fraser Valley residents are more likely to make day trips. Tourist visitation in Harrison Hot Springs is affected heavily by weather and wildfire smoke.

International visitors accounted for 5,014 room bookings in 2023. Harrison Hot Spring's niche target markets are categorized as 'soft adventure tourists', 'heritage enthusiasts', 'fishing enthusiasts', and 'spa travellers'.

In 2024, the newly reopened Harrison Visitor Information Centre and Sasquatch Museum welcomed 14,361 between May and December, marking a 32% increase over the same period in 2023. Of the visitors surveyed at the Visitor Center, 58% were visitors from elsewhere in BC, 10% were from Washington State, 8% were from Canada (excluding BC and Alberta), and 8% were from Europe. Just over one-half of those surveyed stayed for one or two nights (56%), while 29% were daytrippers.

Pay-parking statistics indicate that day trip tourism levels have remained relatively steady since 2020, averaging roughly 44,000 vehicles annually, though 2024 saw 4,519 fewer vehicles than 2023. The occupancy rate of Harrison Hot Springs was 62% in 2024, a 4% decrease from 2023.

# Sts'ailes

Sts'ailes are a sovereign Coast Salish First Nation whose ancestors have lived on these traditional lands since time immemorial. The name 'Sts'ailes' is derived from the Halq'eméylem word 'Sts'a'íles', which means "the beating heart". Sts'ailes Xa'xa Temexw includes the entirety of Harrison Lake, Harrison River, Chehalis Lake, Chehalis River, the lower Lillooet River, the northeastern portion of Stave Lake, and the Fraser River between Hooknose and Queens Island. These major waterways are surrounded by ecologically diverse wetlands, estuaries, and floodplains, a multitude of valleys with small rivers and streams, mountain lakes, and glacial peaks. Situated throughout Sts'ailes Xa'xa Temexw were ancestral settlements, which were the nucleus of everyday commercial and domestic activities, and also semi permanent bases, which were used for hunting, fishing, plant gathering, and ceremonial trips.



**Sts'ailes**

## Organized Recreation

Sts'ailes recognize that the highest and best use of the lands around us is through organized recreation.

## Cultural Features

The region is home to culturally significant sites, including pictographs and other markers of Sts'ailes identity and history.

## Cultural Tourism

Opportunities exist for cultural tourism that highlights the stories, art, and histories of Sts'ailes in ways that educate parks and trails users and visitors in a meaningful way.

## Ancestral Village Site

The Village of Harrison Hot Springs is situated on the ancestral Sts'ailes village site of Qwólts, a place of hot springs and healing for thousands of years. The ancestral village site and hot springs, hold deep cultural and spiritual significance for Sts'ailes people.

## Stewardship of the Land

Since time immemorial, Sts'ailes have lived in deep relationship with these lands and waters, guided by principles of respect and sustainability- placing a high value on the importance of land stewardship.



Sts'ailes and the Village of Harrison Hot Springs are committed to working together on shared values, including parks and trails planning, environmental stewardship, and community engagement.

A meeting was held with representatives from Sts'ailes to discuss the Parks and Trails Master Plan and opportunities for involvement in the future of park, trail, and outdoor recreation in Harrison Hot Springs.

# Parks and Trails Benefits and Trends

## Benefits of Parks and Trails

The parks and trails in the Village offer valuable benefits to both residents and visitors. They provide free and low-cost accessible spaces for outdoor activities that support physical fitness and mental wellbeing. The Village parks and trails also showcase the beautiful scenic landscape of the lake and surrounding mountains, giving residents great joy and attracting tourists, which in turn boosts the local economy. The Village's parks are also important for social gatherings, community events, and activities, fostering connections between residents and enhancing the visitor experience. Through these benefits, the parks and trails significantly enhance the quality of life in the Village, making it an appealing community to live in or visit.

## Trends in Parks and Trails



### *Increased Visitation*

Parks and trails throughout British Columbia have seen increased visitation, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic years. This has resulted in the need for increased maintenance and management to ensure parks are able to meet the demand, create a positive visitor experience, and minimize impacts on the environment.

### *Accessibility and Inclusion*

Communities are striving to create inclusive and welcoming parks and trails by building with universal design in mind. Accessible park and trail amenities are crucial in supporting people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds and will help to promote Harrison Hot Springs as a destination for everyone.



### *Community Involvement*

Community members are seeking a greater level of involvement in the planning of their public spaces. Over the past decades, community groups have championed initiatives such as the Miami River Greenway. The Village is addressing this desire in this master plan process through a comprehensive community engagement plan.

## Climate Resiliency

To mitigate the impacts of climate change, parks and trails can be designed and managed to improve climate resiliency. These could include developing a tree management strategy and implementing low-maintenance planting designs and rain gardens. Measures to help people manage heat should also be considered, such as adding trees and shade structures, providing access to drinking water, and incorporating water-based recreation into park design. Hotter, drier summers are increasing the risk of forest fires and wildfire management is an increasingly important consideration for parks and trails in rural communities.



## Trails

Places to walk and cycle have increased dramatically in popularity, especially since 2020. A well-implemented trail network will be key in supporting passive recreation and active transportation in Harrison, which in turn may help relieve parking pressures and encourage healthy lifestyles.



## Dog Parks

Enclosed areas for people to socialize and exercise their dogs off-leash are increasingly in demand, as dog ownership has spiked in recent years and more people are living in dwellings with little or no private outdoor green space. Features like water access, trails, trees, and open areas to play fetch are popular dog park amenities.



## Emerging Activities

Pickleball has dramatically increased in popularity in recent years, creating competition for limited park space and bringing specific issues like noise. There is also an increasing number of casual activities that people are bringing to parks, from slacklining to geocaching to large family gatherings – again driven by the decreasing size of private indoor and outdoor spaces. Trails are seeing increased use of electric mobility options. E-bikes and e-scooters allow a greater diversity of people to travel longer distances more quickly but can lead to inter-user conflict if improperly managed.



## Social Media

Social media can have a significant impact on parks and outdoor spaces. It can boost park and trail use as people can more easily make community connections and can help the Village identify community partnership opportunities. Many communities are seeing Facebook groups for specific parks or interests such as environmental protection, tennis, hiking, or dog parks. Social media can also have negative impacts like bringing large crowds to sensitive environments and promoting unauthorized gatherings.



# Current State



## 3.1 INVENTORY

### 3.1.1 PARKS

Harrison Hot Springs manages a portfolio of 9 parks and greenspaces. The parks have a wide variety of amenities for the size of the community, and there is a significant focus on supporting activity in the Village's lakeshore area. A map showing the location of all parks and trails in Harrison Hot Springs can be found below (Figure 1), and further details can be found in Appendix A.

#### **Beachfront Park**

As the interface between Harrison Hot Springs's commercial core and Harrison Lake, Beachfront Park is the community's central gathering space. The park features plaza spaces and a lakeshore promenade, both programmable for events. The park includes the Harrison Lagoon, a man-made segmentation of Harrison Lake used as both the community's central outdoor swimming area and a scenic walking path. Supporting amenities include a bandstand, washrooms, showers, an outdoor fitness facility, playgrounds, seating, interpretive signage, and a barbecue area. The park also interfaces with other recreation infrastructure, including the boat ramp, the Charlie Wilson Floatplane Dock, and private boat rental facilities.

#### **Rendall Park**

Rendall Park acts as an extension of Beachfront Park to the east of the boat ramp. Built around a long sandy beach and several large shade trees, the park features washrooms, showers, seating, and a barbecue area.

#### **Spring Park**

Located just off the lakeshore and on the banks of the Miami River, Spring Park features community-focused amenities geared towards recreation. These include accessible washrooms, a covered picnic shelter, a water fountain, a ping-pong table, a playground, two tennis courts, a lacrosse box with lines for pickleball, two horseshoe pitches, and an open grass area.

#### **Woods Park**

Woods Park is a heavily treed neighbourhood park southeast of Harrison's lakeshore. The park has few amenities.

#### **Qwólts Park**

Located west of Esplanade Ave at the meeting of Harrison Lake and the Miami River, Qwólts Park features water access, a picnic shelter, lake-facing seating, interpretive signage, and traditional Sts'ailes art. The park also marks the trailhead of the Miami Bridges Trail and is en route to the Whippoorwill Point Trailhead, both of which are located on private land.

### **Fire Hall Park**

Fire Hall Park is a forested natural area between the Harrison Hot Springs Fire Hall and the Harrison Hot Springs Elementary School site. An informal trail connecting Clover Place and Balsam Avenue to the school field runs along the park's outer edge. The park is widely used by locals despite having no formal amenities.

### **Peace Park**

This lot-sized park is located at the corner of Hot Springs Road and Emerald Avenue and features minimal amenities.

### **Dogwood Park**

Dogwood Park is a small triangular green space located at the intersection of Hot Springs Road and Alder Avenue.

### **Unnamed Parks**

A 0.6 ha municipal green space exists behind the lots on the west side of Hot Springs Road at Ramona Place. This space is not accessible as it is surrounded by private property.

A linear green space runs along the east side of Hot Springs Road between Pine and Alder Avenues. The space features no amenities.

## **FVRD PARKS**

### **East Sector Lands**

This forested natural area located east of McComb Drive contains a network of walking trails along the Miami River corridor. The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) manages the park. The majority of the area is designated as an agricultural land reserve (ALR).

## **3.1.2 TRAILS**

### **VILLAGE MANAGED TRAILS**

#### **Lakeshore Pathway**

This continuous route extends through Beachfront Park, from Rockwell Drive in the east to Qwólts Park west of the Resort. Running parallel to Esplanade Avenue, the trail connects park and beach amenities, parking areas, marinas, and docks. The pathway is primarily surfaced with asphalt with a gravel section connecting the Resort parking lot to Qwólts Park and through Rendall Park.

### **Lagoon Trail**

This gravel trail navigates the lagoon edge, providing uninterrupted views of Harrison Lake. The trail is illuminated and has several benches.

### **Qwólts Park Walkway**

A wide gravel pathway leads from Qwólts Park to the Hot Springs Source. This path doubles as an access road to the Hot Springs Source and wastewater treatment plant.

### **Miami River Greenway**

This community trail runs beside the Miami River between Highway 9 and McCombs Drive where it connects with the McCombs Drive Trail. The trail is intersected by two short trails that cross the river, one at Spring Park and one at the end of Walnut Avenue.

### **McCombs Drive Trail**

This gravel multi-use trail runs parallel to McCombs Drive and adjacent to the East Sector Lands. The trail links into the Miami River Greenway.

## **TRAILS MANAGED BY OTHERS AND UNSANCTIONED TRAILS**

### **Miami Bridges Trail**

Managed by the Harrison Hot Springs Resort, this gentle trail navigates a cedar forest at the base of Mount Agassiz. Linking Qwólts Park to the resort parking lot, the trail features several bridges and a few short stair sections.

### **East Sector Lands Trails - Spirit Trail, Bridle Trail, Tall Grass Trail, and Memorial Trail**

Located within the East Sector Lands, this 5.5km trail system is managed by the Fraser Valley Regional District through agreements with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Village of Harrison Hot Springs. The network features picnic tables, pit toilets, parking and interpretive signage. Clay masks along the Spirit Trail loop create a magical character in the forests. A boardwalk connects the Spirit Loop Trail with the Bridle Trail for longer route options. Several informal trails of varying conditions also run through the area. The trails wind among wetlands and stream channels, with opportunities for birdwatching and nature appreciation. Although the trails are primarily flat, only part of the trail network is packed gravel and suitable for those with mobility challenges.

### **Campbell Lake Trail**

Locally known as the Harrison Grind, this 10km (return) hike offers views of Harrison Lake and access to Campbell Lake. The trail is somewhat informal with several steep sections. This trail is a designated recreation trail under Trails and Rec Sites BC.

**Sandy Cove and Whippoorwill Point Trail**

This trailhead is located near the Hot Springs Source. The trail leads to Sandy Cove, a quiet beach area, and Whippoorwill Point, a rugged rocky outcrop at the source of the Harrison River. This trail is built on private land and is informal in design with some steep sections. This trail is unsanctioned.

**Harrison Beach Lookout Trail**

This informal trail climbs from Harrison Hot Springs Marina to a scenic viewpoint overlooking the lakeshore. The trail is unmaintained and steep. This trail is unsanctioned.

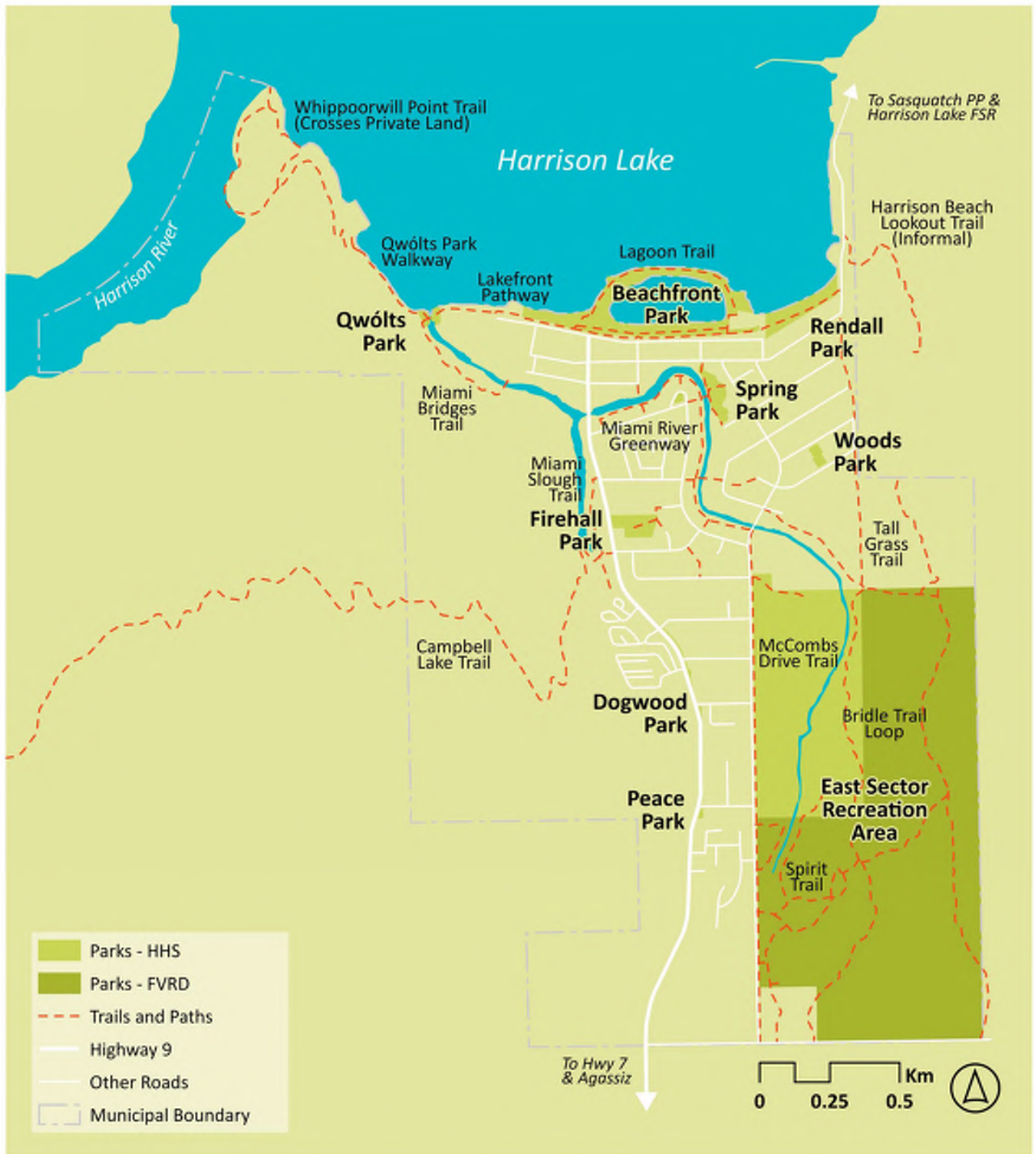


Figure 2 Map of all parks and trails in the Village of Harrison Hot Springs

### **3.1.3 RECREATION AMENITIES**

The Village has permanent and seasonal amenities that support recreation needs and programming in the community. Private operators and not-for-profits also operate amenities in the Village. These amenities are primarily clustered around the Village's lakeshore. A map of other recreation amenities in Harrison Hot Springs can be found below (Figure 2).

#### **VILLAGE AMENITIES**

##### **Boat Launches**

Located at Esplanade Avenue and Spruce Street, the public boat launch is available for public access to Harrison Lake. Parking for vehicles with boat trailers is located nearby.

An informal municipal canoe launch at Cedar Avenue and Maple Street provides access to the Miami River.

##### **Public Docks**

Charlie Wilson Float Plane Dock – This dock is leased by the Village from the Provincial Government for float plane docking, but it is also available to the public for short-term boat moorage.

Municipal Wharf – Located on the east shore of Harrison Lake, the wharf is available for public recreation as well as day moorage with a permit.

##### **Community Garden**

The Village has one community garden on a Village parcel located at the corner of McCombs Drive and Chestnut Avenue. The space contains more than 30 garden boxes, a greenhouse, and a Village water well. The Harrison Community Garden Society manages the garden and holds a 10-year lease for the land.

##### **Starlight Skating Rink**

This outdoor (70ft X 70ft) skating rink operates seasonally from the boat launch parking lot. The rink is for free public leisure skating and offers skate rentals. The rink features synthetic ice, making it highly durable and low maintenance.

##### **Memorial Hall**

Located at 290 Esplanade Avenue, Memorial Hall provides a space available for the public to rent for meetings, weddings, concerts and group events. There is seating for 200 people, a flexible open space and a kitchen.

##### **Ranger Station Art Gallery**

The Ranger Station Art Gallery is the only public art gallery in the Harrison Hot Springs area. It hosts monthly art exhibitions, an artist residency program, as well as various community outreach programs. The space is owned by the Village and run primarily by volunteers from the Kent Harrison Arts Council.

## **OTHER AMENITIES**

### **Harrison Hot Springs Resort**

The Harrison Hot Springs Resort is located to the west of the lakeshore area, next to the mouth of the Miami River. The Resort has several recreation amenities including five hot springs-fed mineral pools, a spa, and two tennis courts. Amenities are restricted to guest use.

### **Public Mineral Pool**

The Public Mineral Pool is a public pool with water sourced from the hot springs. The pool is shallow and suited to relaxation over recreation activities like swimming. Its supporting amenities include washrooms and change rooms. The facility is owned and operated by Harrison Hot Springs Resort.

### **Hot Springs Source**

Managed by the Harrison Hot Springs Resort, the Hot Springs Source is a pumphouse that supplies the resort pools and Public Mineral Pool. The Hot Springs Source is located along the Qwólts Park Walkway.

### **Visitor Centre and Sasquatch Museum**

Reopened in the spring of 2024, the renovated Visitor Centre and Sasquatch Museum features a visitor information desk, washrooms, a gift shop, and museum displays focusing on ecology, First Nations culture, and Sasquatch lore. The centre is fully accessible.

### **Harrison Watersports and Waterpark**

This boat rental and floating waterpark operate seasonally and are located west of the Charlie Wilson Float Plane Dock along the lakeshore.

### **Central Community Church**

This church offers public facility bookings including a 150-seat chapel, dining room and kitchen, and small classrooms.

### **Harrison Hot Springs Elementary**

School District 78 operates one school in the Village: Harrison Hot Springs Elementary. Amenities at the school include a rectangular sports field, a ball diamond, a basketball court, a playground, a gymnasium, and a small library.



Figure 3 Map of other recreation amenities in the Village of Harrison Hot Springs

## 3.2 BENCHMARKING

Harrison Hot Springs' supply of outdoor recreation amenities was compared to that of similarly sized resort communities across BC. When measured against comparable communities (CC), Harrison Hot Springs has:

- An above-average supply of tennis courts, playgrounds, and outdoor fitness circuits;
- An average supply of basketball and pickleball courts; and
- A below-average supply of dog parks, trails, ball diamonds, and rectangular fields.

The District of Kent, the regional municipality directly to the south that includes Agassiz and Harrison Mills, was also considered. The District has an above-average supply of ball diamonds, rectangular sports fields, tennis courts and playgrounds. These amenities are clustered in the community of Agassiz, a 10-minute drive from the Harrison Hot Springs waterfront.

A summary of Harrison Hot Springs' benchmarking analysis can be found in Appendix A.

### **3.3 PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS**

Harrison Hot Springs hosts several annual events, the majority of which take place over the summer months.

#### **Family Day**

This winter event features a live music gala at Memorial Hall with local musicians.

#### **Sasquatch Days**

Hosted jointly by the Village, Tourism Harrison, and Sts'ailes, the two-day event brings Indigenous programming to Harrison Hot Springs' Lakeshore. Events include ceremonies, canoe races, medicine walks, and a salmon and bannock lunch. Programming takes place primarily at Beachfront Park, with the canoe race events using the beach and lagoon edge.

#### **Canada Day**

Events include a pancake breakfast, a flag-raising ceremony, Indigenous programming, and an afternoon parade. Canada Day events temporarily close streets to vehicle access in much of Harrison Hot Springs' lakeshore and briefly interrupt boat ramp access.

#### **Harrison Festival of the Arts**

A weeklong festival featuring live music, children's programming, workshops, a showcase of local artists, and an artisan market. The festival takes place at Harrison's Beachfront Park and plaza, with some events held at Memorial Hall.

#### **Bands on the Beach**

A showcase of local musicians at Harrison Hot Springs' lakeshore bandstand, the two-day event takes place over the Labour Day Long Weekend. Listeners are invited to sit on the grass of Beachfront Park to listen to the music.

#### **Season of Performing Arts**

This concert series runs from fall through spring, with all shows taking place at Memorial Hall.

#### **Lights by the Lake**

Typically running from the last week of November to the first week of January, Lights by the Lake is Harrison Hot Springs' holiday light showcase. The displays draw winter visitors to the lakeshore with whimsical Sasquatch-themed features. A directional walking loop is temporarily set up to manage crowds.

# Engagement



## 4.1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The purpose of the first round was to find out how people currently use parks and trails in Harrison Hot Springs and to understand the community's values and vision for the future. This included understanding which parks, trails, and facilities they use, identifying any gaps and opportunities for development and improvements, and learning about what is working well and what is not. The engagement results informed the plan's vision, goals, and recommendations.

The purpose of the second phase of community engagement was to collect feedback on the Draft Parks and Trails Master Plan to gauge how well the Plan addressed community needs. This included asking for feedback on the Draft Plan's vision, goals, and recommendations and to better understand what should be prioritized. The engagement results informed the final iteration of the Parks and Trails Master Plan. Outreach and Participation

Outreach to the community was done in the two weeks before and during the engagement activities. Information about the project objectives, project schedule, and how to get involved was shared widely with residents.

Opportunities to participate were advertised through:

- The Village's website;
- The Village's social media pages;
- The Village's online engagement portal; and
- Direct emails to community organizations and businesses

# What We Did

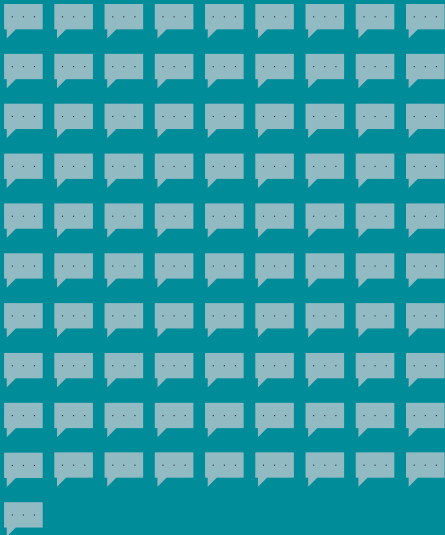
## Round 1

**1** PUBLIC  
OPEN HOUSE

**8** WORKSHOPS  
*with local committees,  
tourism organizations,  
and businesses*

**2** INTERVIEWS  
*with other government  
organizations*

**91** COMMENTS  
*at the open house*



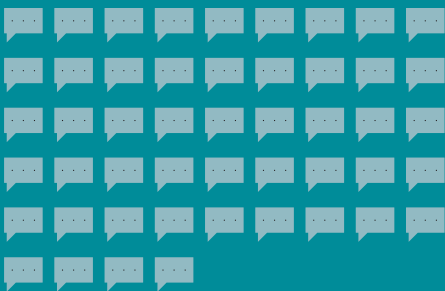
**31**  
SURVEY  
PARTICIPANTS

## Round 2

**1** PUBLIC  
OPEN HOUSE

**1** REVIEW  
*by Fraser Health Authority*

**49** COMMENTS  
*at the open house*



**11**  
SURVEY  
PARTICIPANTS

**199** STICKERS  
*in support of the Draft Master  
Plan recommendations*



# Engagement Highlights

## What is Working Well

- Engagement participants appreciate that Village parks and trails celebrate Harrison's scenic beauty.
- The Village's parks and trails are valued for their ability to support passive recreation and community events.
- The majority of participants were satisfied with their ability to access Village parks and the variety of amenities available in Village parks.

## Opportunities

- Participants wanted to see a new community park established in the Village's south.
- Participants wanted to see a greater diversity of amenities in Village parks to cater to residents and visitors of all ages.
- Promoting accessibility by adding accessible amenities and improving trails was seen as an opportunity.
- Trail improvements and more frequent trail maintenance were seen as priorities, especially in the East Sector Lands.
- Participants wanted to see improvements in the Village's active transportation network to promote safety.
- Climate adaptation and wildfire resiliency were front of mind for several participants.
- Village staff saw park improvements and updates to parks management tools as opportunities to improve staff capacity
- Participants wanted to see greater public access to the hot springs
- There was a desire to see Harrison's parks and trails match the quality and diversity of amenities seen in other BC resort communities.
- Some participants experienced barriers when traveling to Agassiz to access indoor recreation facilities, recreation programming, and sports fields.



# Vision, Goals, and Recommendations



## 5.1 VISION

The vision for the future of parks and trails was developed through the community engagement process and in alignment with the vision, mission, values, and strategic priorities as outlined in the Village of Harrison Hot Springs Strategic Plan 2025-2026. The vision will guide the operations, management, and development of Village parks and trails over the next 15 years.

The Village of Harrison Hot Springs will:

**Grow and maintain** the parks and trails system to meet the changing needs of residents and visitors.

**Promote** equitable access for all park and trail users.

**Support** community connections, public safety, and healthy lifestyles for all residents.

**Protect and enhance** its natural setting through environmental stewardship and sustainable management practices.

**Strengthen** its capacity to manage parks and trails and adapt to new challenges.

## 5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

### MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION

#### **Goal 1: Enhance the Village's capacity to manage parks, trails, and park amenities**

**Recommendation 1.1: Update the Village's existing inventory to develop a comprehensive parks and trails inventory and asset management system.**

A park inventory and asset management system helps manage Village resources. The system should track the age, condition, and maintenance of park assets. An updated asset management system can improve the efficiency of parks and trails operations, inform planning and decision-making, and facilitate knowledge transfer between staff.

**Recommendation 1.2: Develop maintenance standards for parks and trails.**

Standards guide the maintenance of parks by outlining the goals, practices, and target service levels for different categories of parks, trails, and amenities. Standards can also assist in onboarding new staff and can be used as a tool to communicate maintenance priorities to the public. A summary of recommended park and trail maintenance standards can be found in Appendix C.

**Recommendation 1.3: Adopt a boulevard bylaw.**

Explore the adoption of a boulevard bylaw or consider amending the existing Subdivision and Development Servicing Bylaw No. 1179, 2022 to regulate the use and modification of publicly owned boulevards. The bylaw would define permissible landscaping, boulevard maintenance requirements, and restrict activities like unauthorized tree cutting and invasive plant introduction. This bylaw will work to clarify the maintenance responsibilities of property owners whose land borders publicly owned boulevards.

**Recommendation 1.4: Explore formalizing access to trails that cross private land with private landowners.**

Two popular hiking trails, the Campbell Lake Trail and the Whippoorwill Point Trail, begin on Village lands but cross private property. The Village should explore written agreements with the private landowners to maintain public use rights. The Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's *Best Practices for Developing Public Trails on Private Land* provides a good introduction to the topic and relevant provincial legislation, as well as an agreement template; however, the Village should engage qualified legal counsel early in the process.

**Goal 2: Develop management practices that enhance environmental integrity and improve maintenance efficiency****Recommendation 2.1: Develop an invasive species management plan.**

Managing invasive species helps protect the integrity of ecosystems and the scenic beauty of Harrison Hot Springs. Refer to Invasive Species Council of BC and Fraser Valley Invasive Species Society resources to develop the management plan. Provide invasive species training to new and current maintenance staff and explore collaboration with the FVRD. Consider working with local stewardship groups like the Miami River Streamkeepers to assist with invasive plant reporting and removal, as well as rehabilitating affected areas with native plants.

**Recommendation 2.2: Install irrigation systems in horticultural beds.**

Increasingly hot summers, along with windy and sandy conditions in the Village, make watering landscape beds essential during the summer. The current system of hand watering is a significant use of staff resources. Installing automated irrigation systems in Village parks will give staff more time to perform other duties, contributing to a higher overall level of maintenance. Irrigation systems should result in more efficient and effective water use, especially when they include weather and moisture sensors. The Village should consider installing irrigation systems in all existing and new landscape beds.

**Recommendation 2.3: Explore the implementation of rain gardens and bioswales.**

Rain gardens and bioswales can reduce water demand compared to traditional horticultural beds and help manage stormwater runoff. Implementing rain gardens and bioswales in new and existing parks, parking lots, and landscaped medians should be considered to expand the Village's stormwater infrastructure network, reduce flooding potential, and contribute to Village biodiversity and beautification efforts.

**Recommendation 2.4: Adopt horticultural bed planting schemes to include low-maintenance, climate-resilient, and native species.**

Manicured horticultural beds can have a significant visual impact in high-traffic locations but are maintenance-intensive, especially if they contain annual plant species. Planting horticultural beds with hardy perennials and shrubs can free up staff resources, contributing to a higher level of maintenance across the parks and trails system without increasing staffing levels. Incorporating native and drought-tolerant species can also improve sustainability by improving climate resilience.

**Recommendation 2.5: Explore enhancing parks and restoring natural areas with native plantings.**

Native plantings improve ecosystem resiliency, support wildlife, promote soil stabilization, and can reduce maintenance costs. Plant selection should exclude species that attract bears and align with FireSmart planting principles. The use of native and medicinal plants can provide opportunities for the interpretation of Indigenous values, while contributing to placemaking and land stewardship.

Opportunities to install native plants include:

- Restoring degraded, environmentally sensitive natural areas, such as the Miami River corridor;
- Restoring natural areas after invasive species removal has occurred;
- Replacing turf grass and horticultural beds in under-utilized park areas;
- Slope stabilization;
- Creating landscaped screens and buffers; and
- Decommissioning trails.

**Recommendation 2.6: Continue installing bear-proof garbage receptacles.**

Bear-proof garbage receptacles protect wildlife and reduce maintenance associated with wildlife spilling garbage. The Village should replace all remaining traditional public garbage cans with bear-proof garbage receptacles.

**Recommendation 2.7: Continue to electrify the Village’s vehicle fleet and maintenance equipment.**

Electric vehicles and maintenance equipment have several benefits, including reduced local air and noise pollution and carbon emissions, operator health, and lower operation costs after the initial investment. The Village should continue to replace gas-powered vehicles and maintenance equipment with electric alternatives.

**Recommendation 2.8: Continue implementing the recommendations of the Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP).**

The Village’s urban forest provides the community with ecosystem services, holds significant localized ecological benefits, and is responsible for much of the Village’s natural beauty. Trees in parks contribute substantially to the urban forest and provide shade, heat mitigation, flood mitigation, and biodiversity. The Village should continue to manage, protect, and grow its urban forest by implementing the recommendations outlined in the UFMP.

**Recommendation 2.9: Continue implementing the recommendations of the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP).**

Opportunities for park and trail development to support the CWRP’s objectives should be sought out. For example, implementing trail construction and maintenance practices to reduce fire risk per recommendation 17 of the CWRP. Synergies between community wildfire management and parks and trails management may lead to expedited implementation of some recommendations due to the increased availability of grant funding.

**Goal 3: Facilitate easy navigation of parks and trails****Recommendation 3.1: Update the Village parks and trails maps.**

To enhance wayfinding in Harrison Hot Springs, update the Village maps to reflect the current parks and trails network. Maps should include the following information:

- **Parks** - Include a list of park amenities for major parks (e.g. Harrison Lagoon, tennis courts).
- **Trails** - Only include well-maintained trails approved by the appropriate governing body (Village, FVRD, RSTBC) and include trail information (e.g. difficulty rating, distance, time estimates, elevation gain).
- **Active Transportation** - Include all routes and specify shared or separated lanes.
- **Recreation/Tourism Amenities** - Include significant amenities that support recreation in the Village (e.g. Tourism Centre, Ranger Station Art Gallery).

Paper copies of maps should be made available at the Village Tourism Centre. Maps should be updated on the Village’s website, and the development of an interactive web-based map platform for resident/tourism use should be considered. Trail information should be coordinated with tourism organizations and trail mapping websites (AllTrails, Trailforks, etc.) to ensure Village trails are represented and promoted appropriately.

**Recommendation 3.2: Develop a parks, trails, and active transportation network signage strategy.**

A cohesive trail and active transportation network signage strategy can promote the use of the network, safety, wayfinding, and positive visitor experiences. Recent investments in signage have had significant impacts in bringing a visually cohesive ‘sense of place’ to Village parks and areas along the lakeshore. Signage should be implemented hierarchically, with larger kiosk signs at trailheads, destination signs at key intersections, and smaller posts at trail junctions. Signage should feature updated maps, per recommendation 3.1, and include information about nearby destinations like parks, viewpoints, and parking areas, as well as travel times to reach those destinations. Trail and active transportation signage should align with existing Village park signage and Village design and branding standards. The signage strategy should explore using QR codes on signage to share more detailed or up-to-date information to park and trail users. Signage should clearly communicate park and trail bylaws and should include information on how users can report park and trail issues to the Village.

The signage strategy should also consider interpretive elements in parks and trails. Adding interpretive signage to share information about the region’s history, culture, and natural features can help promote tourism objectives and build a sense of community pride. Interpretive signage can also serve as a powerful reminder of the region’s Indigenous identity, and the Village should strive to work with Sts’ailes to ensure Indigenous historical and cultural information is communicated appropriately.

The signage strategy should include working with the FVRD to improve the signage for the East Sector Lands to show more context, including connections to and from the Village, nearby road names, and integration with the active transportation network to improve wayfinding.

## **PARK SUPPLY AND IMPROVEMENTS**

**Goal 4: Expand the Village’s park system**

**Recommendation 4.1: Explore opportunities to acquire land in the Village’s south to develop a future community park.**

Harrison Hot Springs parks are concentrated near the Village’s lakeshore, and residents living south of Harrison Lake Estates do not have a community park within a 15-minute walk of their residence. A new community park would ensure all Village residents have an easily accessible greenspace to recreate and gather. Park acquisition should prioritize large lots and/or assemblies that can support park amenities like a playground and picnic shelter. The Village should explore procuring parkland through land development, including parkland dedication, using cash-in-lieu payments to fund park acquisition, and land swaps. Criteria for the acquisition of new land for park development can be found in Appendix B.

**Recommendation 4.2: Explore opportunities to acquire lots adjacent to Spring Park for future expansion.**

Spring Park is well-situated to serve as both an amenity-rich community park and support events; however, it has minimal street front presence and relatively small unprogrammed lawn areas. Expanding the park's footprint and improving its interface with adjacent streets will allow the park to adapt to a growing population and accommodate large gatherings. In the future, a master plan for the park and any additional lots could help improve the function, flexibility, and value to residents and visitors. The Village should explore procuring parkland through land development, including using cash-in-lieu payments to fund park acquisition and land swaps.

**GOAL 5: IMPROVE THE QUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND ACCESSIBILITY OF PARK AMENITIES****Recommendation 5.1: Identify a location for an off-leash dog park.**

Many Village residents have expressed the need for an off-leash area (OLA) in Harrison for dog owners to socialize and exercise their pets. The Village should explore different options for implementing an OLA, including but not limited to:

- Developing an OLA in an existing park;
- Creating a temporary and/or seasonal OLA in an existing park; and
- Opening a portion of the East Sector Lands for off-leash use.

**Recommendation 5.2: Develop Fire Hall Park as a community park with amenities.**

As a centrally located, Village-owned park space, Fire Hall Park is well-suited to be developed into a community park. New amenities like walking pathways, a small off-leash dog park, a nature play area, and/or a pump track would complement the Village's existing park network by creating new recreation experiences for residents. Formalizing the space into a community park would also present an opportunity to address invasive plants in the area, improving the site's environmental integrity. The existing trees should be maintained to the greatest extent possible for the shade and biodiversity benefits, with amenities nestled within the forested site.

**Recommendation 5.3: Explore adding water-based recreation amenities to the Village's Lakefront.**

Water-based recreation amenities, like a splash pad and non-motorized watercraft launch (kayaks, paddleboards, canoes, etc.), can provide a greater diversity of recreation experiences along the Village's Lakefront. Adding such amenities will help cater to a greater scope of visitors, making Harrison Hot Springs a more regionally competitive summer destination. Water-based amenities will also provide new recreation opportunities for residents of all ages.

**Recommendation 5.4: Continue to inspect and retire outdoor fitness equipment as it reaches its end of life, and explore new uses for the area above beachfront washrooms.**

Regularly inspect outdoor fitness equipment above beach washrooms and remove any failing equipment. Complete removal of the equipment would make room for an accessible gathering space to support beachgoers and promote maximized use of an accessible scenic lookout.

**Recommendation 5.5: Continue to update parks with accessible amenities.**

The Village's new accessible playground is an important milestone in providing accessible park and trail amenities to residents and visitors alike. In alignment with the Accessible British Columbia Act, the Village should continue to add accessible amenities both in the short term and when replacing aging amenities and park infrastructure in the future. Opportunities to add accessible amenities include:

- Ensuring a minimum of one in three picnic tables in every Village park can accommodate a wheelchair and is connected by an accessible path.
- Ensure bench pads have additional space to pull up a wheelchair or park a mobility device next to it.
- Installing accessible playgrounds to replace old playgrounds as they are retired, and ensuring every playground has accessible play features for a wide range of abilities.
- Ensuring all public washrooms and public drinking fountains are accessible.
- Consider adding an accessible dock for paddle sports.

**Recommendation 5.6: Explore developing a partnership with School District 78 to co-manage school fields and sports amenities for school and community use.**

The Village's only sports field and dedicated basketball court are located at Harrison Hot Spring Elementary School. The Village should work toward a partnership with SD 78 to maintain and update amenities to ensure residents have access to high-quality recreation opportunities.

## **TRAIL AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS**

**Goal 6: Improve the quality, connectedness and accessibility of the Village trail network****Recommendation 6.1: Improve pathway connections to Rendall Park.**

Promote legibility and pedestrian safety by improving the pathway connection to Rendall Park across the boat launch area. Coordinate improvements with the waterfront dike upgrade project.

**Recommendation 6.2: Work with the FVRD to upgrade the East Sector Lands trail network and improve connections to the Village.**

The FVRD-managed East Sector Lands are a valued and well-used trail network, but poor trail conditions and a lack of trail amenities are preventing the network from reaching its full potential. Work with the FVRD on trail improvements, including upgrading the surfacing on key trails to granular crush and replacing boardwalks/water crossings to meet accessible standards, and creating nodes at points of interest with seating and/or viewing platforms. Install new signage or adjust existing signage where necessary to align with the parks, trails, and active transportation network signage strategy (see Recommendation 3.2). Create signage and wayfinding for residents and visitors to connect to the trails from the Village core.

**Recommendation 6.3: Work with private landowners and the FVRD to establish an additional East Sector Lands trailhead at the southern intersection of Naismith Ave and McCombs Dr.**

Establish management agreements with private landowners (per recommendation 1.5) to formalize the existing trail from the end of Naismith Avenue to Bridle Trail. Upgrade the trail to an accessible standard. Implement trailhead and wayfinding signage to align with recommendation 3.2. Consider adding a small parking area.

**Recommendation 6.4: Work with the private landowners and FVRD to formalize trail connections in the Village's northeast.**

Upgrade existing trails and/or develop new trails to connect Rockwell Drive to the East Sector Lands. Trails should be built to an accessible standard with granular crush surface. Install new signage or adjust existing signage to comply with recommendation 3.2.

**Recommendation 6.5: Improve the user experience of the Miami River Greenway.**

Grade and widen the existing trails where possible with granular crush. Provide some small benches where feasible for resting and socializing. Explore working with the Miami River Streamkeepers to add interpretive signage to the pathway. Continue to monitor the pathway to ensure it is free of low-hanging vegetation and that adjacent property owners are not infringing on the corridor.

**Recommendation 6.6: Work with RSTBC to improve the Campbell Lake Trail trailhead.**

The Village should work with RSTBC to improve the legibility and user experience of the Campbell Lake Trail trailhead. Trailhead improvements could include:

- Adding a location sign easily readable to drivers on Hot Springs Road;
- Updating informational signage at the existing kiosk;
- Adding signage to delineate parking areas for hikers;
- Adding signs/markers to guide hikers along the Village access roads to the beginning of the single-track trail; and
- Improving pedestrian access around the water tower road gate.

**Recommendation 6.7: Explore working with RSTBC, the District of Kent, the FVRD, and the Harrison Hot Springs Resort to develop a trail on the Village’s west slope to create a village loop trail.**

The Village should explore constructing roughly 2.5km of trail on the Village’s west slope to bolster its overall trail supply and support passive and active recreation uses. In conjunction with existing trails, the addition of this segment would create a roughly 6km village loop trail, providing a 1.5-2.5-hour moderate hiking experience. Establishing a trail on the Village’s west slope could also contribute to active transportation goals by providing an alternative north-south pedestrian route parallel to Hot Springs Road.

**Goal 7: Promote active transportation**

**Recommendation 7.1: Plan to improve trail user safety on the McCombs Drive Trail.**

Consider installing physical barriers (boulders, flexible posts, etc.) between McCombs Drive Trail and McCombs Drive where a 1m width landscaped buffer cannot be achieved while maintaining a 2m trail width. Barrier selection should consider the visual and maintenance/operations impacts. Plan to install crosswalks to McCombs Drive trail at all road intersections along McCombs Drive, including pedestrian crossing signage at all one-way stop intersections. This recommendation is supported by recommendations 5.2.1 through 5.2.3 and 5.3.1 of the Road, Bridge, and Active Transportation Master Plan (RBAT).

**Recommendation 7.2: Continue to implement the active transportation recommendations of the Road, Bridges, and Active Transportation Master Plan (RBAT).**

The Village should continue to implement active transportation network improvements to achieve its goal of 15% of trips made by an active mode in the Village by 2030. This will involve working with MoTT to separate active modes from vehicle traffic on the Village's arterial network, which includes Hot Springs Road, Lillooet Avenue, and Rockwell Drive.

Recommendations from the RBAT involving active transportation include:

- **RBAT Recommendation 5.2.2 -**
  - Install protected active transportation infrastructure on Arterial and Collector roads
- **RBAT Recommendation 5.2.3 -**
  - A "Road Diet" on Lillooet Avenue East that sees the narrowing of driving lanes by installing protected active transportation infrastructure, a median that can act as a pedestrian refuge, and a new parking configuration
  - Overhead pedestrian crossing signage at all identified crossings
  - Protected active transportation infrastructure on HSR
  - Urbanization of HSR with grade-separated delineation of pedestrian spaces
  - Advance stop lines at all midblock pedestrian crossings
- **RBAT Recommendation 5.3.1 -**
  - Goal: 15% of daily trips by active mode or electrified micromobility by 2030, 30% of linear assets devoted to active modes
  - Use Momentum-Based Design for safer shared spaces
  - Provide protected active transportation infrastructure on high-speed, high-volume roads
  - Construct a fully permeable, wide-reaching, and connected active transportation network
  - Modify existing infrastructure rather than building new
  - Conduct a Household Travel Survey to measure the effectiveness of investments in Active Transportation

# Implementation Plan



## 6.1 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The recommendations are intended to be implemented between 2025 and 2040 and will be pursued based on available resources.

The implementation table on the following pages details recommendations, their priority levels, and resource requirements. Operational tasks will be incorporated into staff work plans and departmental resources, while capital projects will be evaluated and integrated into the Village's capital budget. All capital expenditures require Council approval.

The implementation table also highlights potential partners with which the Village may seek to collaborate in order to offset the cost of implementation or achieve improved outcomes for a given recommendation.

### Partnering with Sts'ailes

Since there may be additional opportunities that emerge over the lifespan of this Plan, the Village is committed to communication and collaboration with Sts'ailes. In particular, the Village should ensure procedures are in place to protect cultural and environmental values and integrate recognition of Sts'ailes's past and present into the parks and trails system.

### Time Frames

Time Frames are defined as:

- Short-term (0-5 years)
- Medium-term (5-10 years)
- Long-term (10+ years)

It's important to note that longer-term actions may be completed before shorter-term actions due to the availability of funding opportunities, partnerships, and other factors. As the sequence of actions will be determined by the Village of Harrison Hot Springs' annual work plans and funding availability, the implementation timeline may be adjusted to changing community needs and opportunities.

### Resource Requirements

Actions in the implementation plan involve costs, staff time, operational expenses, and/or capital investments. Resource requirements are categorized as:

- \$: Less than \$50,000
- \$\$: \$50,000 to \$100,000
- \$\$\$: More than \$100,000

## GOAL 1: ENHANCE THE VILLAGE'S CAPACITY TO MANAGE PARKS, TRAILS, AND PARK AMENITIES

Recommendation		Priority	Timeframe	Resources	Potential Partners/Collaborators
1.1	Update the Village's existing inventory to develop a comprehensive parks and trails inventory and asset management system.	High	Short-term	Staff time/\$	
1.2	Develop maintenance standards for parks and trails.	High	Short-term	Staff time/\$	
1.3	Adopt a boulevard bylaw.	High	Short-term	Staff time/\$	
1.4	Explore formalizing access to trails that cross private land with private landowners.	Medium	Short-term	Staff time/\$	Harrison Hot Springs Resort Other Private Landowners RSTBC

## GOAL 2: DEVELOP MANAGEMENT PRACTICES THAT ENHANCE ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY AND IMPROVE MAINTENANCE EFFICIENCY

Recommendation		Priority	Timeframe	Resources	Potential Partners/Collaborators
2.1	Develop an invasive species management plan.	Medium	Short-term planning with phased implementation	Staff time/\$	District of Kent FVRD Fraser Valley Invasive Species Society Invasive Species Council of BC
2.2	Install irrigation systems in horticultural beds.	High	Short-term planning with phased implementation	\$\$-\$\$\$	
2.3	Explore the implementation of rain gardens and bioswales.	Medium	Medium-term	\$\$-\$\$\$	
2.4	Adopt horticultural bed planting schemes to include low-maintenance, climate-resilient, and native species.	High	Short-term planning with phased implementation	\$	Sts'ailes

Recommendation		Priority	Timeframe	Resources	Potential Partners/Collaborators
2.5	Explore enhancing parks and restoring natural areas with native plantings.	Medium	Short-term planning with phased implementation	\$	Miami River Streamkeepers Sts'ailes
2.6	Continue installing bear-proof garbage receptacles.	Medium	Short-term, ongoing as replacements are needed	\$\$	
2.7	Continue to electrify the Village's vehicle fleet and maintenance equipment.	Medium	Short-term, ongoing as equipment is replaced	\$\$-\$\$\$	
2.8	Continue implementing the recommendations of the Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP).	High	Ongoing	Varies	
2.9	Continue implementing the recommendations of the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP).	High	Ongoing	Varies	FVRD

**GOAL 3: FACILITATE EASY NAVIGATION OF PARKS AND TRAILS**

Recommendation		Priority	Timeframe	Resources	Potential Partners/Collaborators
3.1	Update the Village parks and trails maps.	Medium	Short-Medium-term	\$/Staff time	FVRD
3.2	Develop a parks, trails, and active transportation network signage strategy.	Medium	Long-term	Varies	FVRD Sts'ailes (Interpretive Signage) Tourism Harrison River Valley

**GOAL 4: EXPAND THE VILLAGE'S PARK SYSTEM**

Recommendation		Priority	Timeframe	Resources	Potential Partners/Collaborators
4.1	Explore opportunities to acquire land in the Village's south to develop a future community park.	High	Medium-term	\$\$\$	Land Developers Private Landowners
4.2	Explore opportunities to acquire lots adjacent to Spring Park for future expansion.	Low	Long-term	\$\$\$	Private Landowners

GOAL 5: IMPROVE THE QUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND ACCESSIBILITY OF PARK AMENITIES					
Recommendation		Priority	Timeframe	Resources	Potential Partners/Collaborators
5.1	Identify a location for an off-leash dog park.	High	Short-term	\$\$	FVRD
5.2	Develop Fire Hall Park as a community park with amenities.	High	Medium	\$\$\$	
5.3	Explore adding water-based recreation amenities to the Village's Lakefront.	High	Medium	\$\$-\$\$\$	
5.4	Continue to inspect and retire outdoor fitness equipment as it reaches its end of life, and explore new uses for the area above the beachfront washrooms.	Low	Medium-Long-term	Staff time/\$	
5.5	Continue to update parks with accessible amenities.	High	Short-term planning with phased implementation	\$\$-\$\$\$	
5.6	Explore developing a partnership with School District 78 to co-manage school fields and sports amenities for school and community use.	Medium	Short-term initiation of discussions	Varies	School District 78

GOAL 6: IMPROVE THE QUALITY, CONNECTEDNESS, AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE VILLAGE TRAIL NETWORK					
Recommendation		Priority	Timeframe	Resources	Potential Partners/Collaborators
6.1	Improve pathway connections to Rendall Park.	High	Short	\$\$	FVRD
6.2	Work with the FVRD to upgrade the East Sector Lands trail network and improve connections to the Village.	High	Short-Medium-term	\$	FVRD Sts'ailes (Interpretive Signage)
6.3	Work with private landowners and the FVRD to establish an additional East Sector Lands trailhead at the southern intersection of Naismith Ave and McCombs Dr.	Medium	Short-term: Initiate planning  Medium-term: Implementation	\$\$-\$\$\$	FVRD Private Landowners
6.4	Work with private landowners and FVRD to formalize trail connections in the Village's northeast.	Medium	Short-term: Initiate discussions  Medium-term: implementation	\$	FVRD Private Landowners
6.5	Improve the user experience of the Miami River Greenway.	Medium	Short-term	\$	Miami River Streamkeepers

Recommendation		Priority	Timeframe	Resources	Potential Partners/ Collaborators
6.6	Work with RSTBC to improve the Campbell Lake Trail trailhead.	Medium	Short-term	\$	RSTBC
6.7	Explore working with RSTBC, the District of Kent, the FVRD, and the Harrison Hot Springs Resort to develop a trail on the Village's west slope to create a village loop trail.	Low	Short-term: Initiate planning  Medium-term: Implementation	\$\$\$	RSTBC FVRD Harrison Hot Springs Resort
<b>GOAL 7: PROMOTE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION</b>					
Recommendation		Priority	Timeframe	Resources	Potential Partners/ Collaborators
7.1	Plan to improve trail user safety on the McCombs Drive Trail.	Medium	Medium-term	\$	
7.2	Continue to implement the active transportation recommendations of the Road, Bridges, and Active Transportation Plan (RBAT).	High	Long-term	\$\$\$	MoTT

Table 1 Parks and Trails Master Plan implementation plan

# Appendices



## **APPENDIX A: PARKS AND TRAILS INVENTORY AND BENCHMARKING**

Park	Picnic Tables	Benches	Washrooms	Showers	Water Fountain	Bicycle Parking	Shade/Picnic Shelter	Plaza	Bandstand	Public Art	BBQ Area	Playground	Outdoor Fitness Gym	Sports Courts	Volleyball Net	Table Tennis	Chess Game	Horseshoe Pitch	Trails	Lake Access	Informal Area (Lawn)	Landscaped Areas	Habitat/Biodiversity	Electrical Service	Water Service	Lighting	Sign - Park Identification	Sign - Regulations	Sign - Interpretive	Dedicated Parking	Notes
Beachfront Park																															Amenities in good condition
Rendall Park																															Amenities in good condition
Spring Park																															Amenities in good condition
Woods Park																															Amenities in good condition
Qwólts Park																															Wooden stairs in poor condition
Peace Park																															Amenities in good condition
Fire Hall Park																															Forested, undeveloped - upgrades being considered
East Sector Lands																															Amenities in good condition

Table 2 Harrison Hot Springs parks by amenities offered

Trail	Hiking/Walking	Cycling	Accessible	Difficulty	Trail Surface	Distance	Ownership	Condition
Lakeshore Pathway				Easy	Gravel/Asphalt	1.2 km	HHS	The trail is in good condition.
Lagoon Trail				Easy	Gravel	1.0 km loop	HHS	The trail is in good condition.
Qwólts Park Walkway				Easy	Gravel	0.7 km	HHS	The trail is in good condition.
Sandy Cove Walkway and Whippoorwill Point Trail				Moderate	Gravel/Natural	2.1 km loop	Private	The trail approach is steep and prone to erosion, the trail needs some maintenance.
Miami Bridges Trail				Easy	Gravel/Natural	0.5 km	HHS Resort	The trail bed is in good condition, but some bridges are in marginal condition.
Miami River Greenway				Easy	Gravel	1.1 km	HHS	The trail is in good condition.
McCombs Drive Trail				Easy	Gravel	1.8 km	HHS	The trail is in good condition.
Spirit Trail				Easy	Gravel/Natural	0.8 km loop	FVRD/RSTBC	The trail is in good condition.
Bridle Trail				Easy	Gravel	2.2 km loop	HHS/RSTBC	The trail is in good condition.
Campbell Lake Trail				Difficult	Natural	11.6 km return	RSTBC	The trail is poorly defined and in need of maintenance; some woodwork needs to be replaced.
Harrison Beach Lookout Trail				Difficult	Natural	1.4 km return	Private/Crown	The trail is poorly defined and prone to erosion.

Table 3 Harrison Hot Springs trails detailed inventory - named trails only

## Benchmarking

Benchmarking analysis provides an understanding of the level of service offered by a given park system. It is measured in the number of residents per facility, with lower numbers indicating a better level of service. Green cells indicate an above-average level of service, yellow is average, and red is below average. Benchmarking does not consider the condition or quality of amenities.

	HHS	Avg. CC	Osoyoos	Invermere	Radium	Tofino	Ucluelet	Valemount	D.o Kent
<b>Pop. 2021</b>	1,905	2,625	4,859	3,917	1,339	2,516	2,066	1,052	3,936
<b>Pop. 2016</b>	1,468	2,235	4,537	3,391	776	1,967	1,717	1,021	3,911
<b>Growth Rate</b>	29.8%	17.5%	7.1%	15.5%	72.6%	27.9%	20.3%	3.0%	0.6%
<b>Area</b>	5.49	8	8.41	10.75	6.34	10.56	6.48	5.16	4.02
<b>Density</b>	347	319	578	364	211	238	319	204	979
<b>Facility Count</b>									
<b>Tennis Courts</b>	2	1	2	4	0	2	0	0	6
<b>Playgrounds</b>	4	4	2	7	2	3	5	3	7
<b>Pickleball Courts</b>	2	1	3	3	2	0	0	0	2
<b>Ball Diamonds</b>	1	3	6	4	1	2	3	2	6
<b>Rectangular Fields</b>	1	3	3	5	0	1	4	4	7
<b>Basketball Court</b>	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	1
<b>Outdoor Fitness Zone</b>	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Dog Park</b>	0	1	5	1	0	0	1	1	2
<b>km of Trails</b>	23	289	128	436	136	43	57	933	-

Table continues on the following page.

	HHS	Avg. CC	Osoyoos	Invermere	Radium	Tofino	Ucluelet	Valemount		D.o Kent
<b>Residents/Facility</b>										
Tennis Courts	953	1,556	2,430	979	-	1,258	-	-		656
Playgrounds	476	877	2,430	560	670	839	413	351		562
Pickleball Courts	953	1,198	1,620	1,306	670	-	-	-		1,968
Ball Diamonds	1,905	933	810	979	1,339	1,258	689	526		656
Rectangular Fields	1,905	1,140	1,620	783	-	2,516	517	263		562
Basketball Court	1,905	1,806	2,430	1,959	1,339	2,516	2,066	526		3,936
Outdoor Fitness Zone	1,905	2,628	-	3,917	1,339	-	-	-		3,936
Dog Parks	-	1,969	972	3,917	-	-	2,066	1,052		1,968
Residents/1 km of Trail	83	9	38	9	10	58	36	1		-

Table 4 Summary of benchmarking analysis. Level of service is measured in number of residents per facility, lower numbers indicate a higher level of service. Fields in green indicate an above-average level of service and fields in red indicate a below-average level of service.

# APPENDIX B: PARKLAND ACQUISITION CRITERIA

## **PARKLAND ACQUISITION CRITERIA**

The following criteria should be considered in determining the suitability of lands to be acquired for park development in Harrison Hot Springs. Acquisition criteria are broken down into suitability and feasibility.

### **Suitability**

#### **1. Topography and natural features suited to the intended uses**

- Where feasible, a desirable park gradient will be in the range of 0-5% for the majority of the site. Lands up to a 10% slope may be considered only if they can be graded to 5% to accommodate park uses. Consideration must be made on a park-by-park basis of natural geographic features (such as small hills, knolls) which may act as features of a park, but the majority of a park should be capable of accommodating a range of recreational activities.
- Parkland should be considered where it protects ecosystems not otherwise represented in the system.
- Parkland should be considered where significant natural features are located.

#### **2. Be convenient to the population it serves**

- Every resident should not be farther than a ten-minute walk from a park (approximately 800 meters).

#### **3. Be compatible with adjoining land uses**

- Situate parks adjacent to larger natural features or linear green connectors. Examples of this are locating neighbourhood parks adjacent to linear greenways and active transportation routes.
- Create parks, where possible, adjacent to school sites.
- The location of proposed parks with recreation amenities should take into consideration the effect of lighting, parking and circulation on adjacent land uses and circulation patterns.

#### **4. Be safe and accessible**

- Parks should be located close to public streets, transit, bicycle paths and pedestrian routes.
- Parks should have as much frontage on streets as possible.
- Universal accessibility should be provided to and in parks where reasonably feasible and where doing so will not damage cultural or environmental integrity.

- Parks and active transportation routes should be properly lit to discourage vandalism, and where doing so will not adversely affect adjacent residences. (It is not expected that natural areas or nature trails be lit.)

#### **5. Provide varied programming**

- Sites should be as flexible as possible in their programming, incorporating opportunities for a variety of activities such as active structured play, unprogrammed lawn areas, pathways, trails, lookouts and quiet areas.
- Sites should incorporate desired park facilities for the specific neighbourhood requirements and demographics. Since this will change over time, it is critical that the space be of a size, shape and contour that park elements can change over time.
- In general, a park smaller than 0.3ha should not be accepted, and preferably not smaller than 0.5ha.

#### **6. Be sensitive to the environment**

- Parks should conserve, enhance and restore the natural physical character of the site.

#### **7. Be resilient to the effects of climate change**

- The park's susceptibility to being impacted by naturally occurring events whose frequency or severity are increasing due to climate change, such as wildfires, landslides, and floods, should be low or reasonably mitigatable.
- Parks should contribute to the Village's climate objectives.

#### **8. Limited non-park infrastructure**

- Detention ponds and stormwater management facilities typically preclude public use. These are not recommended as park space.
- Other infrastructure encumbrances that limit park programming should be minimal or absent.

#### **9. Consider opportunities for optimal parkland as they arise**

- Initiate parkland identification and boundary determination at, or prior to, road layouts and preceding any lot layouts in new development areas.

#### **10. Create connections**

- Parkland is preferred where it contributes to the community-wide system of trails and greenways.

**11. Support tourism and economic development**

- Parks should accommodate visitor needs and should be located where they are easily accessible to visitors.
- Parkland is preferred in areas with strong connections to commercial areas and/or where it can support community events.
- Parkland capable of supporting regionally unique or significant amenities is preferred.

**Feasibility****12. Cost**

- The cost to acquire, develop, and maintain a site should be considered.

**13. Partnerships**

- Sites that provide opportunities to offset costs through collaboration with user/interest groups, land developers, other levels of government, and First Nations are preferred.

## **APPENDIX C: PARKS MAINTENANCE STANDARD**

## Proposed Landscape Maintenance Standards for the Village of Harrison Hot Springs

January 2025

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The primary goal of landscape maintenance standards is to ensure that all elements of the Village's green spaces are kept in good condition. Maintaining healthy and vibrant plants, healthy lawns (in high-profile areas), and well-preserved hardscaping is critical to the beauty and functionality of the Village's parks and public areas.

The maintenance strategy utilized should emphasize sustainable practices and consideration of safety including:

- Ensuring plant health through regular care
- Controlling invasive species and pests using Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Employing skilled staff and training staff in the latest best management practices
- Utilizing environmentally friendly equipment and tools
- Monitoring soil health if needed and making necessary amendments
- Prioritizing the safety of workers and the public. Unsafe conditions should be corrected or normal use restricted.

The Canadian Landscape Standards - Second Edition defines six levels of landscape maintenance standards. It is recommended that the Village adhere to the 'Moderate', 'Functional', and 'Natural' maintenance levels for most of their park system to fulfil residents' and tourists' expectations while managing Village resources appropriately. As a high-profile Village asset, Beachfront Park should be maintained to a 'Groomed' standard. Table 4 outlines the landscape maintenance standards, with the Village parks assigned to the appropriate maintenance levels.

Maintenance Level	1. Well-Groomed	2. Groomed	3. Moderate	4. Functional	5. Natural	6. Service & Industrial
Appearance Standard	Plants are kept “manicured” and in near-perfect health and condition, lawns are healthy, uniformly green and thoroughly groomed.	Plants are healthy and vigorous. Lawns are healthy and regularly mowed and trimmed within accepted height range for the type.	Plants and lawns are healthy, lawns kept within accepted height range for type. Seasonal plantings are in good condition and attractive at appropriate seasons.	Appearance is secondary to functional requirements. Areas are neat and functional. Vegetation retains healthy, normal appearance. Grass kept within accepted height range; trimming may be less frequent.	Vegetation retains healthy, normal appearance. Invasive plants shall be controlled, and noxious weeds shall be eradicated.	Vegetation is controlled to accommodate service activity. Invasive plants are managed to prevent spreading.
Maintenance Practices for parks and trails	This level requires consistent, frequent attention to many details that affect the health and appearance of the garden. This level is best achieved by a qualified professional who has considerable expertise.	This level requires frequent, regular, routine maintenance of a high intensity, with regular monitoring and adjustment to keep high visual quality. Most of the maintenance tasks require a qualified professional for execution.	Routine maintenance of moderate frequency and intensity, with regular monitoring to avoid serious deterioration. Many of the maintenance tasks require a qualified professional for execution.	Routine maintenance of moderate to low intensity. Emphasis is on controlling deterioration and adapting the site to activities. Vegetation is managed to accommodate the activities. Some of the maintenance tasks require a qualified professional for execution.	Maintenance is low in order to maintain ecosystem functioning and habitat quality. New native or natural plantings in a more-or-less natural condition. Many of the maintenance tasks require a qualified professional for execution.	Maintenance is primarily vegetation and invasive plant control. Some of the maintenance tasks require a qualified professional for execution.
Village Parks		Lake Front Beach	Spring Park Rendall Park Qwólts Park Peace Park Dogwood Park	Firehall Park	Woods Park East Sector Park	

Table 5 Proposed maintenance standards for the Village of Harrison Hot Springs.

## **APPENDIX D: ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY – WHAT WE HEARD REPORT**

# Village of Harrison Hot Springs

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## Parks and Trails Master Plan

### Engagement Summary

### What We Heard Report

Prepared for:



Prepared by:

LEFS  
ASSOCIATES

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Status: Final

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August 2025

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>66</b>
1.1	OUTREACH AND PARTICIPATION	67
1.2	ENGAGEMENT TOOLS	68
<b>2</b>	<b>ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES</b>	<b>71</b>
2.1	ROUND 1 OUTCOMES	71
2.2	ROUND 2 OUTCOMES	79
2.3	MEETING WITH STS'AILES	82
2.4	ENGAGEMENT KEY THEMES	82
<b>3</b>	<b>CONCLUSION</b>	<b>86</b>

# 1 INTRODUCTION

The Village of Harrison Hot Springs Parks and Trails Master Plan outlines the strategic direction for parks, trails, and recreation facilities within the Village over the next 15 years. The planning process involved assessing existing parks, trails, and recreation facilities, reviewing past and current planning initiatives, and incorporating community feedback to identify recreational needs and gaps. Building on these elements, the Master Plan outlines a vision, goals, and recommendations to guide parks, trails, recreation services, and capital investments to support informed decision-making.

This “What We Heard” Report summarizes community input and feedback from the first round of engagement held in Phase 2 and the second round of engagement held during Phase 4 (see the overall planning process in Figure 1).

The purpose of Round 1 of community engagement was to find out how people use parks and trails in Harrison Hot Springs and to understand the community’s values and vision for the future. This included understanding which parks, trails, and facilities they use, identifying any gaps and opportunities for development and improvements, and learning about what is working well and what is not. The engagement results informed the vision, goals, and recommendations in the Draft Parks and Trails Master Plan.

The purpose of Round 2 of community engagement was to collect feedback on the Draft Parks and Trails Master Plan to gauge how well the Plan addressed community needs. This included asking for feedback on the Draft Plan’s vision, goals, and recommendations and to better understand what should be prioritized. The engagement results informed the final iteration of the Parks and Trails Master Plan.

Figure 1: Parks and Trails Master Plan Process



## 1.1 OUTREACH AND PARTICIPATION

Outreach to the community was done in the two weeks leading up to each round of engagement and during the engagement activities. Information about the project objectives, project schedule, and how to get involved was shared widely with residents.

Opportunities to participate were advertised through:

- The Village's website;
- The Village's online engagement portal;
- Posters at popular community locations; and
- Direct emails to community organizations and businesses

## 1.2 ENGAGEMENT TOOLS

### 1.2.1 ROUND 1 ENGAGEMENT

Round 1 community engagement included interviews with Fraser Valley Regional District and District of Kent representatives, workshops with Village committee representatives and local business owners, a public online survey, and an open house event.

#### Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) and District of Kent Interviews

Interviews were held with the FVRD and District of Kent to understand their respective approaches to parks and trails, community trends in the area, potential partnership opportunities, and other factors that could affect the Village's approach to managing parks and trails in and around Harrison.

#### Staff Interview

An interview was held with Village Parks staff to discuss factors influencing the maintenance and upkeep of Village parks and trails.

#### Workshops

Local businesses, tourism organizations, school representatives, and municipal committee representatives were invited to participate in engagement workshops. These sessions included an introduction to the project and a discussion about the gaps and opportunities in Harrison Hot Spring's park and trail network.

Participants in the workshops included:

- Harrison Accessibility Committee
- Harrison Age Friendly Committee
- Harrison Environmental Advisory Committee
- Harrison Advisory Planning Commission
- Tourism Harrison River Valley
- Miami River Streamkeepers Society
- Harrison Hot Springs Resort
- Harrison Water Sports

### *Engagement by the Numbers*

#### Round 1

**31** survey participants

**91** comments at the community open house

**8** local committees, tourism organizations, and businesses participating in workshops

**2** interviews with other government organizations

#### Round 2

**11** survey participants

**49** comments at the community open house

**199** support sticker next to draft Master Plan recommendations

**1** review from the Fraser Health Authority

## Online Survey

A public online survey was hosted on *getintoitharrison.ca* from October 24<sup>th</sup> to November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Participants were asked about their habits regarding park and trail use, their feedback on the amenities available in the Village parks, and their vision for the future of parks and trails in the Village. The full survey results are available in Appendix A.

## Community Open House

Consultants and Village staff attended a community open house at Memorial Hall on October 24, 2024, with a pop-up station for people to stop by, learn about the project, and offer feedback on The Village's parks and trails system.

The following questions were asked on display boards, where people could add sticky notes during the event:

- What do you love and value most about the Village's parks and trails?
- How can existing parks and trails be improved? Is anything missing?
- What barriers or challenges do you face related to parks and trails?
- What are the most important priorities for the Village of Harrison Hot Spring's parks and trails?
- What else do we need to know? Share your ideas here.

## 1.2.2 ROUND 2 ENGAGEMENT

Round 2 community engagement included a public online survey and an open house event.

### Community Workshop

Consultants and Village staff attended a community open house at Memorial Hall on March 3, 2025, with a station for people to stop by, learn about the project, and offer feedback on the draft recommendations.

The Draft Master Plan's recommendations were listed on display boards, and participants had the opportunity to endorse recommendations by placing a sticker next to those which they thought were most important. Participants were also asked to provide specific feedback on two recommendations, including:

- Where would you like to see an off-leash area in Harrison?
- What kind of amenities would you like to see at Fire Hall Park?

Participants also had the opportunity to share any additional information and bring up anything missing from the plan.

**Online Survey**

A public online survey was hosted on *getintoitharrison.ca* from March 3<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Paper copies of the survey were also made available at the community workshop. Participants were asked for their thoughts on the Plan's vision, goals, and recommendations and were asked if anything was missing from the Draft Master Plan.

**Fraser Health Authority Review**

The Village received comments on the Draft Parks and Trails Master Plan from an Environmental Health Officer at the Fraser Health Authority (Fraser Health).

## 2 ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

### 2.1 ROUND 1 OUTCOMES

#### 2.1.1 VILLAGE STAFF WORKSHOP

The Village staff workshop reviewed overarching themes in Harrison Hot Springs parks and trails. The workshop was conducted with the Village's Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Corporate Officer, Director of Operations, Community Services Manager, and Public Works Supervisor.

##### **Strengths of Harrison's Parks and Trails**

Village staff recognized the Beachfront Park as a successful public space and noted Spring Park amenity-rich community-focused park. Ongoing investments to improve existing park spaces such as the Lagoon Plaza, washrooms, and new playgrounds were also seen as positive. The Village's trail network was seen as a strength.

##### **Challenges and Opportunities**

Village staff noted the challenges of catering to Harrison Hot Springs' retiree community while also providing amenities for the influx of young families moving to the Village.

Staff recognized that Beachfront Park needed improvements including upgrades to the Lagoon, a strategy to manage beach sand migration, and better amenities to support families. Village staff noted that connections to Rendall Park were not clear, making the park feel disconnected from the rest of Harrison's waterfront.

Staff noted that park investments funded by the RMI most often target Harrison's waterfront area but were difficult to implement elsewhere in the Village. Staff noted that a park should be developed in the south of the Village and suggested lots along Pine Avenue as potential sites. Staff noted they would like to see Spring Park receive a higher level of maintenance and investment to support community recreation.

The Village has a small maintenance team, and staff noted an opportunity in landscaping upgrades that reduced maintenance demand, such as installing automated irrigation systems and exploring low-maintenance planting schemes in horticulture beds.

Other general park opportunities included accessibility upgrades, improving signage and wayfinding, implementing FireSmart park upgrades, and adding regional cycling routes.

## Metrics for Success

Village staff saw the following as indicators of success for the Parks and Trails Master Plan:

- Easy access to parks and trails for all residents
- Minimize barriers to accessibility
- A well-connected, easily navigable trail network
- Park and trails system balances tourist and resident needs
- Collaboration with local First Nations
- Financially realistic management recommendations
- Support from Council, staff, and the Community

### 2.1.2 VILLAGE OPERATIONS STAFF INTERVIEW SUMMARY

An interview was held with the Village's Parks, Trails & Horticulture Technician and reviewed key themes regarding the maintenance and operations of Village parks and trails.

#### Staff Capacity

The maintenance demands of lakefront parks limit staff's ability to tend to other parks and trails during the summer. Seasonal positions have been more difficult to fill in recent years. New capital investments in parks have been well received but there are concerns over maintaining additional facilities without new staff.

Consider incorporating drip irrigation systems into new planting beds and for newly planted trees. The current system of hand watering and tree water bags is labour-intensive, especially in sandy and windy locations.

#### Tools

Recent Village investments in new electric municipal vehicles and maintenance equipment are positive and contribute to a healthier work environment.

#### Maintenance Guidelines

The lack of maintenance guidelines for naturalized areas, like Woods Park, may be leading to complaints and confusion from residents over expectations regarding appropriate levels of maintenance for different environments. The Parks and Trails Master Plan is an opportunity to create a vision to guide the Village's maintenance priorities and standards and communicate them to the public.

### **Invasive Plants**

Some planting beds along the waterfront were built with contaminated soil and now have problems with horsetails. Staff have identified other instances of invasive plants in the Village, including Japanese knotweed, Himalayan blackberry, and Eurasian milfoil.

## **2.1.3 FRASER VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

### **East Sector Lands**

FVRD trail counter shows trail use in the East Sector Lands has grown significantly over the past decade. Future improvements could include expanded parking, addressing wet areas on trails, and improving accessibility. Some of these upgrades are expensive and there would be interest in collaborating with the Village. The Village has installed a fire detection system in the East Sector Lands.

### **Opportunities for Collaboration**

Other potential opportunities for collaboration with the Village include developing mountain bike trails in the area and/or supporting the formalization of well-used informal trails.

## **2.1.4 DISTRICT OF KENT INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

### **Active Transportation to Harrison**

District Council has adopted an active transportation plan which includes active transportation recommendations for routes between Agassiz and the Village of Harrison Hot Springs. The District of Kent has explored opportunities to improve cyclist safety in the past but currently has no plans in place to implement improvements.

### **Use of Kent Parks, Trails, and Recreation Facilities**

In 2023, nearly one in five users at the Community Recreation & Cultural Centre in Agassiz were from the Village of Harrison Hot Springs. The District of Kent noted that the Village's growing population could put additional strain on the District of Kent's parks, trails, and recreation facilities.

### **Regional Trends**

There may be a lack of dog off-leash areas. Some Kent residents travel to Harrison to play pickleball as Harrison's courts are preferred over the shared outdoor tennis facilities in Agassiz. The indoor pickleball courts in Agassiz are very popular, even during the summer, as wildfire smoke and high temperatures often discourage outdoor recreation. The District of Kent is in the process of building a new recreation and aquatics centre and is expanding its well-used dyke trail network.

## 2.1.5 ONLINE SURVEY SUMMARY

### Who Responded

The survey saw 31 respondents. The majority (64%) of respondents were 60 years of age or older, and 61% identified as women. All but two of the survey respondents live in Harrison Hot Springs.

### Parks and Trail Use

The most common activities for survey respondents using Village parks and trails were walking/hiking (97%), community events/festivals (71%), cycling (65%), live performances (58%), outdoor gatherings (55%), and water sports (52%).

Most respondents (87%) use Village parks and trails on a weekly basis.

The most frequently visited parks were the Beachfront Park (84%), Rendall Park (81%), and Spring Park (81%). The trails most regularly used were the Lagoon Trail (87%), the Miami River Greenway (84%), the Miami Bridges Trail (74%), and the East Sector Trails (71%). Memorial Hall was the most regularly visited recreation facility (68%) followed by the Visitor Centre and Sasquatch Museum (48%).

### Barriers to Park and Trail Use

Roughly one-third of respondents said there were no barriers to using Village parks and trails. The most common barriers preventing respondents from using parks and trails were poor maintenance conditions (23%) and lack of information (19%).

### Parks and Trails System Approval

The vast majority (93%) of respondents were satisfied with their ability to access parks and trails in the Village. Respondents were generally satisfied with the variety of park amenities (65%), the number of parks and trails (65%), the quality of parks and trails (65%), and the amenities/features of recreation facilities (75%). A slim majority (55%) of respondents were satisfied with the quality of recreation facilities. Opinions about recreation programs offered by the Village were more mixed with 25% of respondents expressing dissatisfaction, 19% satisfied, and 56% neutral. A summary of respondents' satisfaction levels by park and trail criteria can be found in Figure 2.

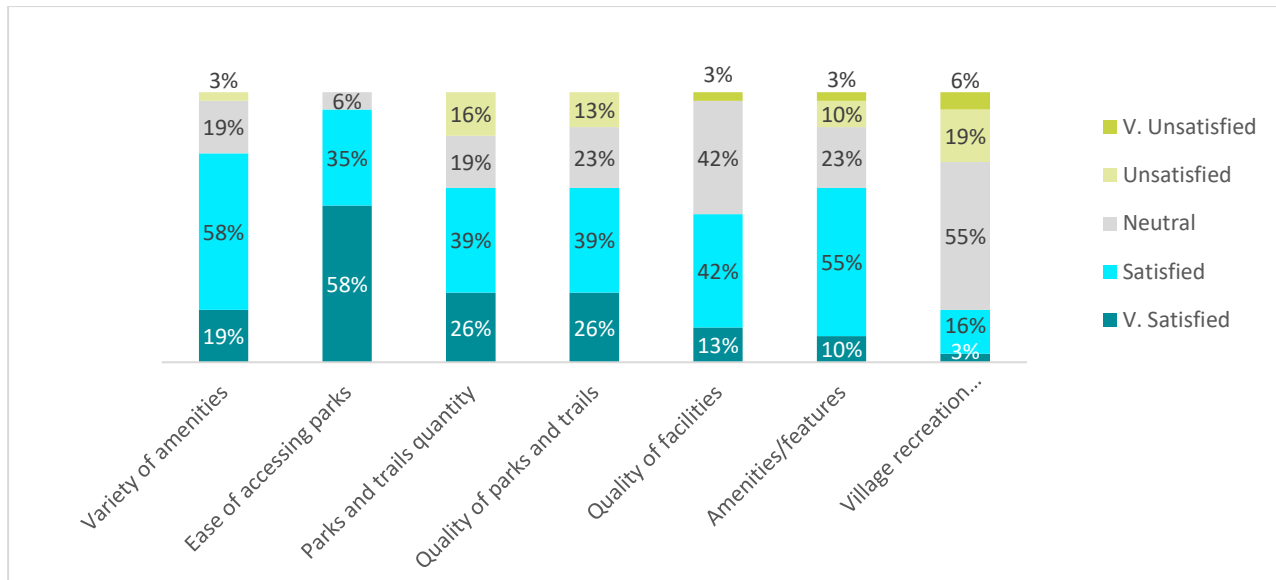


Figure 2 Respondents' satisfaction rates by park and trail criteria.

### Parks and Trails Amenity Approval

Respondents were most satisfied with the Village's barbeque and picnic areas (68%), trails (55%), signage, washrooms (68%), and Memorial Hall (78%). Respondents were least satisfied with sports fields (6%) and outdoor fitness equipment (13%). A summary of respondents' satisfaction levels with regard to park and trail amenities can be found in Figure 3.

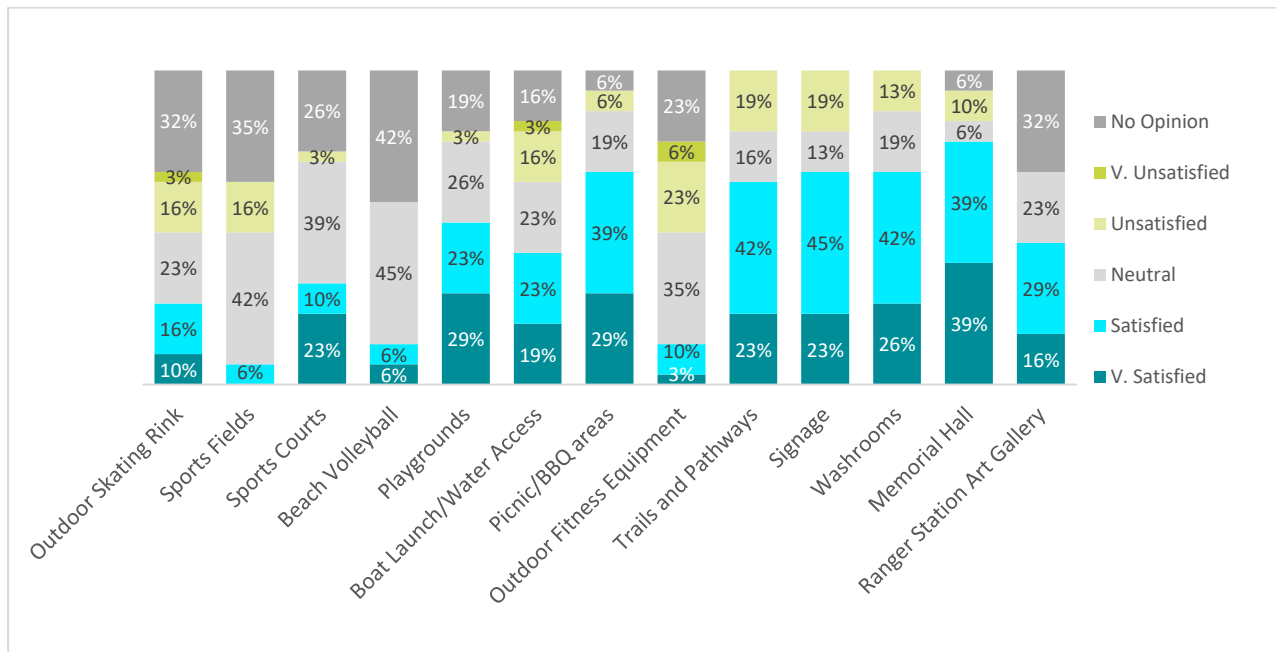


Figure 3 Survey respondents' satisfaction rates by park and trail amenity.

### Parks, Trails, and Recreation Beyond Harrison

The majority of respondents use parks, trails and recreation amenities outside of the Village (85%).

Reasons included:

- To visit a recreation centre, e.g. the Community Recreation & Cultural Centre in Agassiz
- To go to the pool
- To go cycling on bike paths and mountain bike trails
- To go walking/hiking on different and/or more challenging trails
- To access recreation programming

### Improving Parks, Trails, and Recreation in Harrison

Survey respondents had many ideas for improving parks and trails in Harrison, including:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ▪ Adding and improving trails              | ▪ Site furnishings  |
| ▪ Improving cycling routes                 | ▪ Adding a Village Harrison recreation centre / indoor facilities         |
| ▪ Protecting trees and adding street trees | ▪ Providing recreation programming  |
| ▪ Adding dog parks                         | ▪ Organizing more community events, especially those geared toward locals |
| ▪ Adding/improving signage                 |   |

### Value of Parks and Trails

Most of the 31 respondents said they would support a tax increase to fund parks and trail development (68%), 16% were opposed.

### Vision for the Future

Survey respondents were asked about their vision for the future of parks and trails in the Village.

Responses included:

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| ▪ Matching the quality of parks and trails in other BC resort communities | ▪ Adding indoor facilities        |
| ▪ More diverse outdoor recreation opportunities                           | ▪ Adding dog parks                |
| ▪ Improved water access   | ▪ Celebrating natural features    |
| ▪ Adding and improving trails   | ▪ Improving active transportation |
| ▪ Managing parks and trails for climate resiliency                        | ▪ Signage                         |

## 2.1.6 OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY

### Park, Trail, and Recreation Facility Use

The most visited parks by open house attendees were Beachfront Park, Rendall Park, Spring Park, and Fire Hall Park. The most used trails among attendees were the Lagoon Trail and the Miami River Greenway. Memorial Hall, the Visitor Centre and Sasquatch Museum, and the Ranger Station Art Gallery were the most regularly visited recreation facilities.

### Barriers to Recreation

Open house attendees shared concerns about barriers that prevented them from recreating in the Village. These included:

- Lack of cyclist and pedestrian separation from car traffic
- Lack of trail maintenance
- Poorly connected trails and sidewalks
- Lack of dedicated facilities e.g. pickleball courts

### Opportunities for Improvement

Open House attendees shared ideas about how the Village could improve its parks, trails, and recreation opportunities, including:

- Cycling routes
- Mountain bike trails
- Adding signage and interpretive elements
- Adding a splash pad
- Adding dedicated pickleball courts
- Improving public hot spring access
- Improving water access, docks, and boat launches
- Adding active recreation facilities (skate park, pump track, sports courts)
- Adding a dog park
- Hosting more community events
- Adding and protecting public trees

## 2.1.7 WORKSHOP SUMMARY

### What Attendees Appreciated

Workshop attendees (local businesses, tourism organizations, school representatives, and municipal committee representatives) appreciated the Village's recent investment in new playgrounds. Attendees noted that Village parks and trails provide great access to nature, celebrate the area's scenic views, and are close to Harrison's commercial core. The Village's variety of walking/hiking experiences was also appreciated.

### Opportunities for Improvement

Opportunities to improve Village parks and trails raised by workshop participants included:

- Accessibility improvements, including accessible picnic tables
- Better mapping and trail information
- More car-free routes for walking and cycling
- Improved/more site furnishings and washrooms
- A park in the Village's south
- More amenities for youth and teenagers
- Public hot springs access
- Lagoon upgrades
- Accessibility upgrades
- Beautification
- Amenities to support tourism
- Trail improvements in East Sector Lands
- Central plaza expansion
- More viewpoint trails
- Better bylaw enforcement
- Implementing a booking system for outdoor spaces

## 2.2 ROUND 2 OUTCOMES

### 2.2.1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

#### Thoughts on the Vision, Goals, and Recommendations

The majority of survey participants strongly agreed or agreed with the Plan's vision statement (8) and goals (7). A few participants would like the Plan's vision and goals to include references to the Village's history and connection to nature.

The most popular draft Master Plan recommendations among workshop participants were:

- #25 - Work with the FVRD to upgrade the East Sector Lands trail network and improve connections to the Village. (20)
- #30 - Work with MOTT to Improve active mode separation from vehicle traffic on Hot Springs Road and Lillooet Avenue/Rockwell Drive. (17)
- #17 - Explore opportunities to acquire land in the Village's south to develop a future community park. (16)
- #14 - Continue implementing the recommendations of the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP). (14)
- #2 - Develop maintenance standards for parks and trails. (12)

The least popular recommendations were:

- #7 - Install irrigation systems in horticultural beds. (0)
- #8 - Explore the implementation of rain gardens and bioswales. (0)
- #31 - Continue to implement the active transportation recommendations of the Road, Bridges, and Active Transportation Plan (RBAT). (1)
- #10 - Explore enhancing parks and restoring natural areas with native plantings. (2)
- #15 - Update the Village parks and trails maps. (2)
- #21 - Continue to inspect and retire outdoor fitness equipment as it reaches its end of life and explore new uses for the area above beachfront washrooms. (2)
- #29 - Plan to improve trail user safety on the McCombs Drive Trail. (2)

Survey participants voiced support for the following recommendations to improve park and trail maintenance practices and better facilitate navigation:

- #4 - Create a public portal for reporting trail issues.
- #6 - Develop an invasive species management plan.
- #9 - Adopt horticultural bed planting schemes to include low maintenance, climate resilient, and native species.
- #15 - Update the Village parks and trails maps.

Most survey participants supported the Village improving trails in the East Sector Lands, improving active mode separation on Hot Springs Road and Lillooet Avenue, and acquiring land in the Village's south to establish a new community park.

### **Off-Leash Dog Area**

Workshop participants had the opportunity to place a sticker on a map where they believe a new off-leash dog area should be established in the Village. The following locations were recommended:

- The east end of Rendall Park (6)
- Firehall Park (2)
- The northwest East Sector Lands (2)
- Boat launch area (2)
- The Village overflow parking field (2)

Some survey participants saw beach access as important for an off-leash dog area. A few participants in both activities did not want an off-leash dog area in the Village. One participant voiced frustration that the Village has been slow to implement a long-discussed off-leash dog area.

### **Fire Hall Park**

Suggestions for recreation amenities to be developed in Fire Hall Park included an adventure/nature playground, an off-leash dog area, walking trails, and a pump track.

## Other Comments

When asked if anything was missing from the Plan's recommendations, participants suggested the following:

- Amending bylaws to restrict hours of use for trails that border residential properties
- Exploring the implementation of public food gardens and fruit trees
- Developing trails on the west side of the Village to create a Village loop trail
- Developing more trails in the East Sector Lands
- Acquisition of lands north of the East Sector Lands for park use
- Increasing wildlife awareness of park and trail users
- Exploring conservation/environmental protection goals in parks
- Developing the overflow lot into a park space
- Restricting bicycle use on the Miami River Greenway
- Adding interpretive signage to highlight natural features

Participants also suggested adding amenities to Village parks including:

- A boat launch for non-motorized boat users
- A nature/adventure playground
- A disc golf course
- A splash pad

Some participants voiced ideas for improving the Starlight Skating Rink, such as moving it to the school to better accommodate community use and leaving it open for year-round use.

## 2.2.2 FRASER HEALTH AUTHORITY REVIEW

### Climate Resiliency

Fraser Health provided recommendations to ensure the Parks and Trails Master appropriately advocated for climate resiliency in Village parks and trails. This included:

- Ensuring the benefits of shade trees in parks are appropriately raised and communicated in the document;
- Incorporating the addition of shade structures into the recommendations; and
- Adding information on climate-resilient tree species selection for parks and green spaces.

## Accessibility and Safety

Fraser Health provided recommendations to ensure the Parks and Trails Master appropriately advocated for accessibility and safety in Village parks and trails. This included:

- Better communicating the public health benefits of local community parks in Recommendation 17: ‘Explore opportunities to acquire land in the Village’s south to develop a future community park.’ ;
- Incorporating considerations for strengthening park-street interfaces to promote use, improve user access and safety, and deter crime;
- Incorporating considerations to minimize conflict on Village trails and pathways such as monitoring trail use, widening trails and separating trail users by mode where necessary; and
- Capturing existing water safety equipment in parks in the current state inventory and considering recommendations to improve the availability of water safety equipment in parks if needed.

## 2.3 MEETING WITH STS’AILES

A meeting was held with representatives from Sts’ailes to discuss the Parks and Trails Master Plan and opportunities for involvement in the future of park, trail, and outdoor recreation in Harrison Hot Springs. The following is a summary of key themes from the meeting:

- Sts’ailes acknowledged their close and ongoing working relationship with the Village of Harrison Hot Springs. Parks and trails offer several potential opportunities for collaboration.
- Sts’ailes recognized that more people were moving to Harrison Hot Springs and the surrounding area, leading to more people recreating in and around the Village.
- Sts’ailes noted they’d like to see work done to recognize their historic village site in Harrison Hot Springs. There are also broader opportunities to increase recognition and awareness of Sts’ailes history, culture, and values through interpretive elements in Harrison Hot Springs’ parks and trails.

## 2.4 ENGAGEMENT KEY THEMES

The following summarizes some of the key themes from Round 1 and 2 engagement activities.

### Parks and Trails Overall

Engagement participants were generally satisfied with the quality and availability of parks and trails in the Village of Harrison Hot Springs. Participants appreciated the Village’s breadth of passive recreation opportunities and enjoyed parks and trails that celebrated the Village’s scenic beauty. Participants also valued parks for their ability to support community events.

## Park Expansion and Development

Participants noted that the Village's parks were concentrated near the waterfront and voiced support for exploring opportunities to acquire land in the Village's south for the development of a new park. Opinions on expanding Spring Park were more mixed. Participants recommended reviewing parks' street interfaces across the park network to promote use, improve user access and safety, and deter crime.

## Trails

Participants across all engagement activities valued trails highly. Activities that use trails, like walking, hiking, and cycling, were among the most popular recreation activities in the Village. Participants were concerned about trails that crossed private lands and supported formalizing access agreements to keep trails open for public use. Some participants wanted further trail development in the Village's West to create a Village loop trail. Participants advocated for the monitoring of trails to ensure Village trails can support current use levels and recommended upgrading trails to minimize inter-user conflict if needed.

## **Active Transportation**

A lack of separation from vehicle traffic was the most common safety concern raised by engagement participants concerning Village parks and trails. Participants wanted to see measures taken to improve active transportation infrastructure on Hot Springs Rd., Lillooet Ave., and Rockwell Dr.

## **East Sector Lands**

Participants noted wayfinding difficulties in the East Sector Lands due to a lack of signage and the prevalence of informal trails. Participants saw waterway crossing upgrades and trail surfacing improvements as the top priorities in improving the East Sector Lands. Some participants saw potential in the East Sector Lands to host other recreation amenities like a nature play area and an off-leash dog area.

## **Accessibility**

Participants noted that the Village had few suitable trails for those with special mobility needs and upgrading trail surfacing was voiced as a priority throughout engagement. Participants wanted more accessible amenities in Village parks such as picnic tables and washrooms.

## **Water Activities and Safety**

Participants wanted better public access to the hot springs. Participants requested amenities to support water-based recreation, including a splash pad and a non-motorized boat launch/dock. Participants noted the importance of water safety equipment in lakefront parks.

## **Off-Leash Dog Areas**

Participants favoured areas with beach access, such as Rendall Park, for an off-leash dog area, though Fire Hall Park was also popular. Some participants were against establishing an off-leash dog area in the Village.

## **Navigation and Wayfinding**

Participants favoured updating Village parks and trail maps with the latest information and updating parks and trailhead signage.

## **Active Recreation Amenities**

Participants were dissatisfied with the quality/availability of sports fields in Harrison, noting recreation amenities for older children/youth as a gap in Village parks. Participants voiced interest in adding new active recreation amenities to Village parks, including a pump track, nature play, and a disc golf course.

## **Wildfire and Emergency Planning**

Several participants supported Recommendation 14: 'Continue implementing the recommendations of the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP)', indicating wildfire preparedness is front of mind for some Village residents.

### **Environmental Integrity**

Participants largely supported recommendations that worked to preserve the Village's environmental integrity, such as installing bear-proof garbage receptacles, managing the Village's urban forests, restoring sensitive habitat along the Miami River, and managing invasive species. Participants were less supportive of recommendations that may lead to the replacement or alteration of Village landscaping, such as exploring native/low-maintenance planting schemes and exploring implementing bioswales and rain gardens.

### **Climate Resiliency**

Participants wanted to see more shade trees and shade structures in Village parks. Participants advocated for selecting climate-resilient trees for use in Village parks and green spaces.

### **Public Information and Reporting**

Participants supported the Village in developing maintenance standards for parks and trails and creating an inventory of parks and trails. Some participants wanted to see more informational/interpretive signage in village parks and trails.

### **Regional Recreation Trends and Indoor Recreation**

Many participants travel to Agassiz to access the indoor pool, fitness centre, and recreation programming, as facilities are not available in Harrison. Some participants would like to see a Village-operated weight room, fitness centre, and dry floor space developed in Harrison Hot Springs.

### 3 CONCLUSION

Based on input received from Village staff, stakeholders, Sts'ailes, and the public, parks and trails in Harrison Hot Springs are well-used and appreciated, and they play an important role in the community. Engagement participants are enthusiastic about the Draft Master Plan's vision for the future of Harrison Hot Springs's parks and trails. There is interest in promoting user experience and equitable access to foster a vibrant and inclusive park and trail network. Participants value Harrison Hot Springs's unique setting and believe the Plan should work to protect, enhance, and promote access to natural features through measured park and trail improvements. Safety is a top priority for many community members, voiced through feedback about active transportation, wildfire preparedness, and wildlife awareness. Residents see new park amenities as opportunities to bring diverse and exciting recreation opportunities for residents and visitors alike.