

# RECREATION SERVICES + PARKS VISION

## DRAFT VISION STATEMENT

We envision a Squamish in which all citizens are actively engaged and collectively participate to create inclusive, fun, and resourceful recreation; a community that enjoys an intimate relationship with the outdoors and nature.

## DRAFT MISSION STATEMENT

Squamish Recreation and Parks services build healthy individuals and community by providing excellent leadership in the facilitation and provision of programs and services that are innovative, creative, safe and affordable

## DRAFT PRINCIPLES

The following principles and values guide our efforts and decisions:

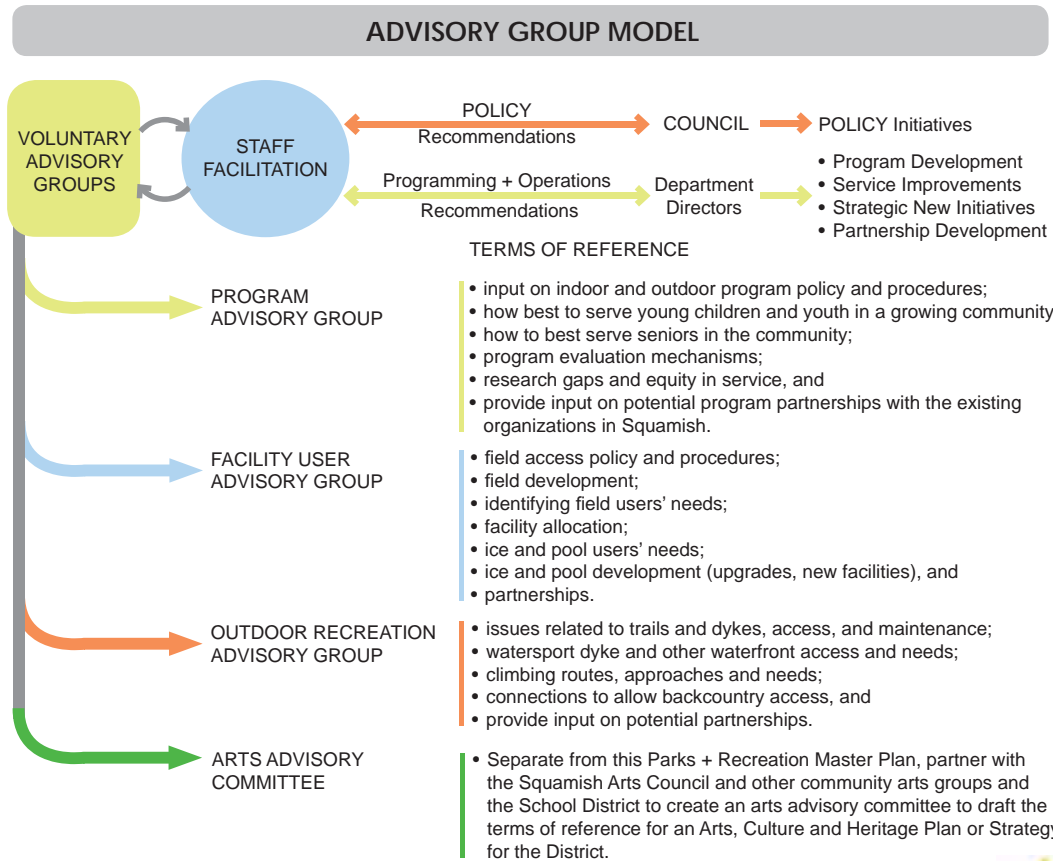
- We believe recreation is a vital public good and a basic right for all.
- We believe parks and recreation are essential to mental and physical wellbeing.
- We believe volunteering is the highest form of recreation and will strive to provide opportunities for citizens to participate and lead.
- We strive to ensure that all citizens have access to quality recreation and parks services and work hard to reach those that have the greatest need.
- We are accountable, transparent and prudent in our use of public funds.
- We seek out partners to leverage resources, improve service and achieve efficiencies.
- We act as stewards for our environment and provide leadership to protect our cherished spaces.
- We believe that recreation and parks services play an important part in the development of a diversified economy.
- We strive to exercise excellent communication and facilitation skills to seek out and fulfill the recreation and parks needs and wants of our citizens.

## Findings

- Squamish benefits from an exceptionally high level of volunteer engagement in the recreation and parks realm.
- Recreation Services would be well served to build around this strength to bolster support and service in the future.
- Recognize how volunteerism enables the community to strengthen their service delivery.

## Recommendations

- Develop a Volunteer policy and strategy that celebrates the value and benefit that volunteerism delivers to the community.
- Develop a Volunteer leadership development program.
- Hire skilled staff that can manage a centralized volunteer leadership development program including volunteer recruitment, engagement, retention, and evaluation. This could be a shared role with an Events coordinator role.
- Provide professional support to partners and community groups to build volunteer capacity within the community.



# SQUAMISH RECREATION CENTRE + COMMUNITY CENTRES

## SQUAMISH RECREATION CENTRE

### Findings

- Building entrances and layout make control/supervision difficult and public access inefficient. Programming space is limited and has quality issues.
- Recreation Centre staff responsibilities extend beyond the building, and include supervision/service for the campground and field use, as well as engagement in events in and around the park.
- The fact that Squamish has exceptionally active residents puts added stress on District facilities and programming, and requires a level of service beyond "normal" levels to meet local demand.
- There are many new models for Community Recreation Centres that enable cost recovery and contribute to the overall health and wellbeing of residents.

### Recommendations

- Develop a phased renovation and expansion plan for the facility with the intent to be completed in all phases in 10 years.
- Retain architectural and engineering professionals to assess the current condition of the building and identify potential options for expansion and upgrading of the facility.
- Potential upgrades include:
  - Development of a fitness space to support specialized equipment and circuit training.
  - Development of a regulation size gymnasium (raising the roof of the auditorium or adding on to the Recreation Centre).
  - Determine if there is public interest in a dedicated gymnastics facility.
  - Upgrade the exterior appearance and profile of the entire facility to clearly identify entrances and purpose of various components.
  - Improve and enlarge staff office space to modern standards, providing adequate natural light and ventilation.
  - Upgrade and modernize the meeting rooms.
- Establish an initiative for rehabilitation and preventative health programs and services at the Recreation Centre. (Examples of such a "one stop shop" approach can be found in West Vancouver, North Vancouver and other municipal recreation services throughout the Lower Mainland.)
- Initiate partnerships with Sea to Sky Community Services, Vancouver Coastal Health, and Squamish Health Care Foundation Society to achieve the above recommendation.

### Satisfaction with Indoor Facilities

(phone survey responses)	Total Satisfied	Total Dissatisfied
Brennan Park swimming pool	89%	7%
Brennan Park Recreation Centre	83%	12%
Brennan Park ice arena	71%	16%

### Satisfaction with Indoor Programs

	Total Satisfied	Total Dissatisfied
Phone Survey	71%	13%
Paper/Online Survey	52%	48%



Squamish Ice Arena



Squamish Aquatic Centre

Almost 2/3 of the population are members or regular visitors to a community centre, club or organization providing physical or recreational activities or programs

(phone survey responses)

### Recreation Improvement Requests

- (phone survey responses):
1. Lack of public/rec centre fitness/workout facilities - 33%
  2. Need a multiplex recreation centre - 24%
  3. More ice/rink time - 19%
  4. Not enough programs for youth/children - 11%
  5. Not enough programs in general - 9%

(paper/online responses):

- Lack of public / recreation centre fitness/workout facilities
- Not enough variety (dance, aquafit, aboriginal activities, pilates, yoga, aerobics)
- Need more flexibility in scheduling (later evenings, drop-in, open gym, better communication)
- Add more noncompetitive/recreational sports leagues

### Forestry Site Extension

- Early Learning Programs
- Parent/Tot Drop-in
- Parent/Grandparent Support Programs
- Child minding
- Afterschool Programs

## COMMUNITY CENTRES

### Ministry of Forests Site

The Provincial Forestry Building and Works Yard is located directly across Loggers Lane from the Squamish Recreation Centre and is now a District-owned parcel.



Former Ministry of Forests building. Currently leased by a Montessori School and Provincial Agencies

### Recommendations

- Explore re-purposing the Forestry Building as a Family and Children's Centre, providing a family place drop-in for parents and preschool children along with a relocated preschool. Expand the outdoor play space, shared with the Montessori school. This initiative would open up the existing preschool space in the Brennan Recreation complex for new programming.
- Maintain the remainder of the open space on the grounds for special event storage and parking, and event related camping.

### Youth Centre

The Squamish Youth Centre is located on Carson Place Park in a former RCMP building. Carson Place Park also includes the skate park.



Youth Centre and skate park within Carson Place Park

### Recommendations

- Relocate youth programming to the Squamish Recreation Centre, possibly in the space now utilized by the Preschool. Existing Youth Centre programs would continue and new programming options could be added using resources at the Recreation Centre and Brennan Park.
- With the relocation of the Youth Centre, priority should be given to the redevelopment of Carson Place Park as active play space for all ages, with open sightlines and improved lighting. Improve the connection to Dentville to the north.

### Seniors Centre

The Squamish Seniors Centre is not yet performing to its full potential. It is in a context that reads like a private facility, and access is limited by membership and the current hours of operation.



Seniors Centre main entrance (D. Gibbon)

### Recommendations

- Rebrand the Seniors Centre as the "Squamish Community Centre", without a membership requirement. Gradually expand the range of programming, particularly during evening hours. Focus on arts and cultural programming and other programs compatible with current users.
- Implement a marketing and publicity program to increase awareness and use of the facility.
- Install improved signage to help new patrons find the centre and know that it is open to the public.



# OUTDOOR RECREATION CAPITAL + BRENNAN PARK VISION

## OUTDOOR RECREATION CAPITAL

### Findings

- There is widespread support for the "Outdoor Recreation Capital" brand. Recreation Services should tie into this identity through expanded programming and partnerships.
- 8 out of the top 10 recreation activities are outdoors.

### Support for the "Outdoor Recreation Capital of Canada"

Phone Survey	Paper/Online Survey
More focus 63%	More focus 85%
Same focus 29%	Same focus 13%
Less focus 6%	Less focus 3%

### Top 10 Recreation Activities (phone survey)

ADULTS	KIDS
Off-road cycling	Swimming
Hiking	Soccer
Swimming	Skating/snowboarding
Walking for exercise	Ice sports
Skating/snowboarding	Off-road cycling
Road cycling	Road cycling
Ice sports	Cross country skiing
Cross-country skiing	Hiking
Boating/fishing	Dance
Climbing	Baseball

### Recommendations

- Recreation programming should be explicitly linked to the District's "Outdoor Recreation Capital" identity.
- Provide beginner level, fundamental skills development in outdoor recreation and sports (e.g., mountain biking, road cycling, skiing/snowboard, triathlon, windsports, climbing/bouldering).
- Incorporate programs to improve children's access to and interaction with nature such as playgrounds focused on nature play, hiking activity programs, and environmental education.
- To help achieve these recommendations, create partnerships with existing local organizations to expand District programming opportunities.



R-L: Mountain Bike Stunts Park at Bowen Island (photo LEES+Associates), All ages mountain bike skills at Burnaby Mountain Bike Park (photo LEES+Associates)

8 out of 10 of the most popular activities among adults are outdoor recreation pursuits.

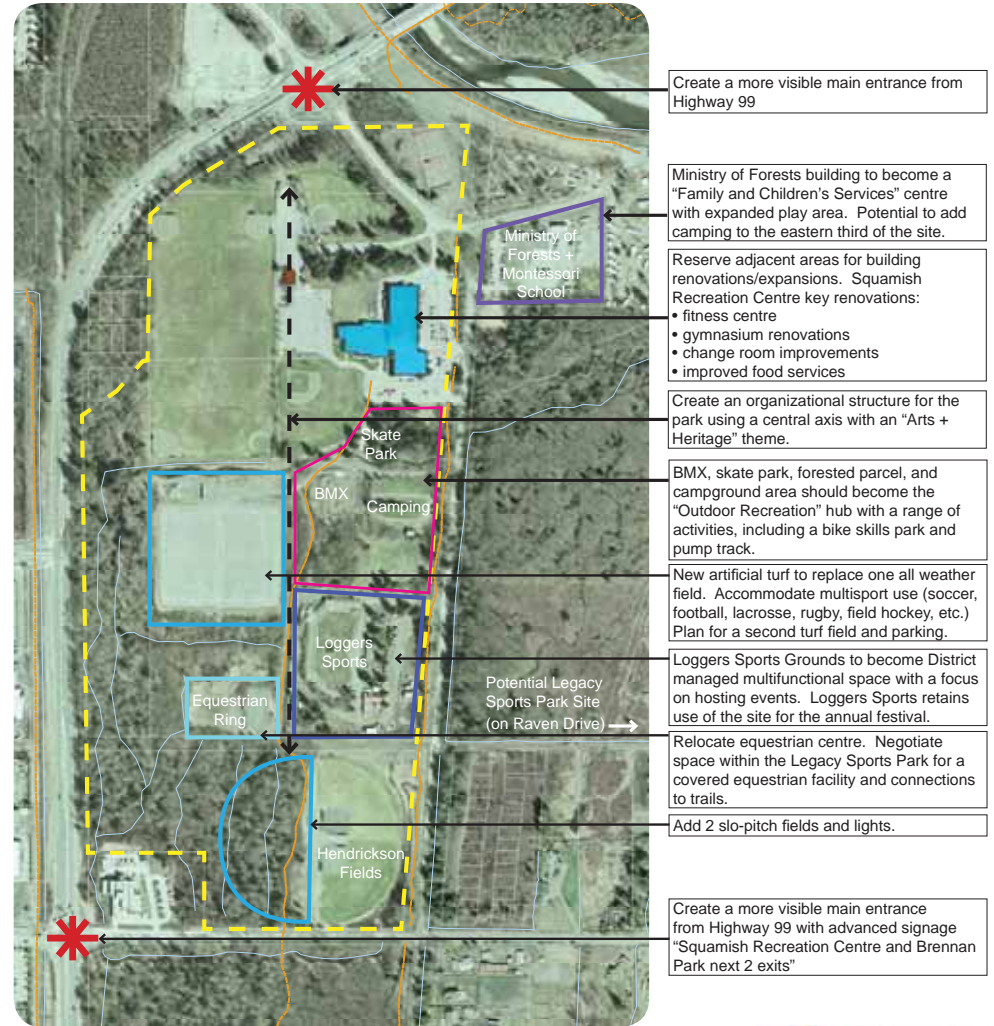
## BRENNAN PARK VISION

### Finding

- There is a need to create a VISION for Brennan Park that will guide the revitalization of the park to meet the changing needs and aspirations of the community.

### Recommendations

- Create a long-term vision for Brennan Park as the community hub for Outdoor Recreation and as an Events Centre.
- Use the long-term vision to guide short-term decisions for lease renewals and new facilities.
- Seek to integrate adjacent amenities to create a cohesive park plan.
- Key points for the Brennan Park vision are shown on the adjacent map.



Brennan Park: Opportunities + Constraints



# SPORTS + FIELDS

## SPORTS PROGRAMMING

### Findings

- There is a high proportion of children and youth in Squamish. Overall trends in Canada point to an increasing risk of reduced health and activity levels in children and decreased interactions with nature. There is also public interest in increasing programming for children and youth.
- Squamish has a large number of high performance athletes and should continue to improve sport training and recognition through its recreation programs.
- There is active interest from the community for noncompetitive sports and drop-in sports programs.

### Recommendations

- Establish the Squamish Recreation Centre as a hub for recreation, health and wellness to help support everyone who is trying to stay healthy and active, as well as high-level athletes.
- Add a fitness facility at the Recreation Centre for all ages and abilities.
- Add programs to build better physical literacy for children and support children, youth and adults to be active for life.
- Adopt the approaches and principles outlined in Canadian Sport for Life (CS4L). See information box, below.
- Increase noncompetitive and drop-in sports programs to improve participation rates.
- Explore the potential to create dedicated space for a gymnastics program and, drawing on their expertise, to expand cross-training and fitness opportunities.
- Expand recognition of the many high performance athletes who reside in Squamish, as individuals who could coach and inspire other participants, particularly children and youth. They should be invited to play a visible role in programming and special events.
- Incorporate policies and programs to improve children's access to and interaction with nature such as hiking activity programs and environmental education.

### Finding

- Many user groups in Squamish are faced with issues relating to the need for equipment storage.

### Recommendation

- The District should establish a program to make affordable storage space available to registered community non-profit organizations whose activities are based in District parks, and civic recreation facilities. Implementation should aim for cost recovery through rental fees.



## SPORTS FIELDS INVENTORY

A sports fields inventory and assessment was completed by comparing Squamish to other communities in the Province with similar populations and also taking public and District staff comments into account.

Survey comments on outdoor recreation improvements:

NOTE: Additional recommendations regarding field allocation are located on the Parks 1 information panel.

### Phone survey comments

1. Sports fields improvement/more 15%
2. Bike trails improvement/more 11%
3. Water/waterfront/beach access 11%
4. More activities for children/youth 7%
5. More parks / dog parks 7%

### Paper/Online Feedback:

- new turf field
- more ball/soccer fields
- lighting
- improve grass field conditions

### Findings

#### BALL DIAMONDS

Squamish is deficient in ball diamonds for the number of teams and compared to other communities [33 slo-pitch teams and only 8 weeknight game slots].

#### RECTANGULAR FIELDS

Squamish is slightly below average in the number of rectangular fields compared to other communities and there are ongoing issues of drainage and user conflicts (i.e. overlap with ball diamonds). Some fields in the inventory are only for minisoccer.

#### LACROSSE / SPORT COURTS

There is no lacrosse court or field in Squamish, but there is public interest in the sport.

#### BRENNAN PARK

Brennan Park is Squamish's main, centralized athletic park, but there are many competing demands for space. Brennan Park will soon be unable to accommodate more fields and alternative locations need to be explored.

### Recommendations

- Install lights at Hendrickson Fields to increase weeknight use.
- Complete the 4-ball diamond wagon wheel at Hendrickson Fields to allow for tournaments.
- Joint use agreements with School District to phase upgrades to school fields.

- Complete the artificial turf field at Brennan Park, including lights.
- Phased upgrade of existing grass fields to address drainage issues and turf quality.
- Joint use agreements with School District to phase upgrades to school fields and arrange ongoing maintenance.

- The artificial turf field should be designed for multisport use, including field lacrosse.
- Develop a lacrosse box (location TBD)

- Establish joint use agreements with the School District to improve school fields for community athletic use (example: Howe Sound Community Field @ Howe Sound Secondary School).
- District should lead negotiations with Quest for a joint use agreement for field use.

# EVENTS, ARTS, CULTURE + HERITAGE

## EVENTS

### Findings

- Events play an important social role in Squamish as a means of community celebration and volunteer development. Equally important is the role events play as an economic generator for tourism
- Recreation and Parks Services can play an important role in the embracing events and fostering partnerships to deliver exceptional experiences to visitors and residents.
- The main event locations in the District are Brennan Park, Stan Clarke and Pavilion Park downtown, and the Brackendale Farmer's Institute.

#### Do you support Squamish hosting large events?

Phone Survey:	Paper/Online Survey:
• SUPPORT 88%	• SUPPORT 88%
• OPPOSED 8%	• OPPOSED 5%

#### Support for promoting Squamish as the "Outdoor Recreation Capital of Canada"

Phone Survey:	Paper/Online Survey:
• More focus 63%	• More focus 85%
• Same focus 29%	• Same focus 13%
• Less focus 6%	• Less focus 3%

#### Benefits of promoting Squamish as the "Outdoor Recreation Capital of Canada"

Phone Survey Responses:	
• Economic Benefits	57%
• Attracts people for outdoor recreation	26%
• Builds infrastructure / recreation facilities	23%
• Creates healthy lifestyle	22%
• Increases awareness of Squamish	10%
• Builds vibrant community/pride/quality of life	2%

### Recommendations

- Embrace events as an important economic generator for the District.
- Develop an Events Policy that includes:
  - Event contract language to identify the rights and roles of partners in events.
  - Event procedures that outline roles and responsibilities of the appropriate departments to coordinate and manage events on a professional level (police, recreation, parks, engineering, roads, legal, tourism etc.).
  - Suggestions and guidance for "greening" events through environmentally responsible practices and strategies.
- Establish an "Events Coordinator" position to build and secure the reputation of Squamish as an events destination. The Events Coordinator would also serve as a resource for event organizers (procedures, equipment, supplies, etc.).
- Develop a transportation strategy in coordination with event host organizations and the District Engineering Department. Transportation planning could include parking (for event organizers, attendees, and the disabled), shuttles, bike parking, public transportation, and traffic detour planning. Start with basic plans for Brennan Park and Downtown events.
- Integrate small scale events into Brennan Park Recreation Centre, O'Siem Pavilion, the farmer's market parking lot and the Brackendale Farmer's Institute Park to increase participation and profile programs and services.

### Events Infrastructure

- There is a need for changes at Brennan Park to address immediate event needs. With some redesign, Brennan Park has potential to be a good small event space (i.e. 5,000 or less). Specific recommendations for Brennan Park are located under the Brennan Park Vision section.
- Growing support for large special events provides an opportunity to establish a new "events" site in the future, probably at a new location designed to accommodate large events (i.e.: 5,000 people and over).
- Integrate appropriate amenities into park event sites to support small and large scale events:
  - Electrical outlets - permanent boxes reduce the need for generators, saves energy, and reduces noise and pollution;
  - Lighting - plan lighting for key entrances, exits, pathways and security areas;
  - Potable water taps suitable for water wagons; and
  - Structural subbase components in sports fields to allow tents and stages with minimal damage to playing surface.
  - Paved entrances and exits for equipment, trucks and "behind-the-scenes" activities.

## ARTS, CULTURE + HERITAGE

### Findings

- Arts, Culture and Heritage plays a significant role in the identity of the community and plays an important role in attracting and enriching the experience of both residents and visitors.
- The District of Squamish is currently working on a Public Art Policy.
- There is a lack of Arts, Culture and Heritage influence in District indoor and outdoor buildings, parks and trails infrastructure that reflects the history and culture of the community.
- The recreation facilities also are lacking in specialized art education or creative development spaces for children and youth.

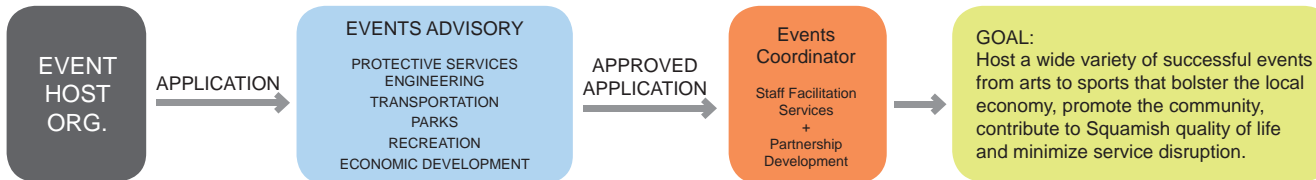


www.johnbullwit.com

### Recommendations

- Create an Arts Advisory Committee (AAC), partnering with the School District, to draft the terms of reference for an Arts, Culture and Heritage Plan or Strategy for the District. This plan should lay out principles, strategic direction, goals, and roles and responsibilities of all parties in fostering a creative community. This plan or strategy should integrate and leverage Tourism planning in the District.
- The District should explore a service agreement with an AAC for the assumption of specific roles and responsibilities in developing the arts, culture and heritage community and to establish a sustainable funding mechanism for the organization.
- The District and an ACC should review the community grants process with the intent to improve and assign performance measures and accountability to grant recipients.
- Recreation Services should partner with an AAC and Squamish Nation to build arts and cultural programs for children, youth and adults. Utilize local artists for introductory arts education and skill development and promote an arts advisory committee for intermediate and advanced arts skill development.
- Consider an artist-in-residence program for the Recreation Centre and Senior's Centre to launch introductory quality arts programming.
- Encourage partnerships between event providers, an AAC and Squamish Nation to incorporate cultural arts elements to sport or heritage events.
- Consider arts/cultural programs that build on the natural environment such as Outdoor Photography, "Plein Air" or Outdoor Painting, "Found Materials" Sculpture or Earth Installations.
- Consider establishing an "Art in the Park" program that offers promotion for artists and generates revenue. Both Vancouver Parks Board and the West Vancouver Cultural Services run similar programs.
- Engage artists and integrate public art into municipal building projects, public works (i.e. man-hole covers, water culverts, bridges) and parks infrastructure.
- Build a trail signage program that shares the rich history of the community and adds an element of interest for locals and visitors. Topics could include First Nations, logging + resources, west coast pioneers and environmental interpretation. Develop guided walking trail programs to expand on this history.
- Consider dedicating outdoor space for a full season exhibition of outdoor forestry working machines currently sitting in the Logger Sports area.
- Utilize the Adventure Centre as a keystone venue to celebrate the history, arts and culture of Squamish. Space could be dedicated to tell the Squamish story in visual arts, historical panels and a running multi-media production (not unlike the Grouse Mountain's "Theatre in the Sky").
- Create opportunities for visual art displays in Brennan Park Recreation Centre.
- Special consideration in future facility development should include space for visual arts, dance, music and multi-media. In the interim, focus arts programming in the Senior's Center (to be renamed the "Squamish Community Centre").
- The arts are recognized as an important means to reach and engage pre-teens and youth. Recreation Services should focus on this age group with creative programs that build skills and enable self-expression.

## EVENTS APPLICATION PROCESS



# PARKS 1

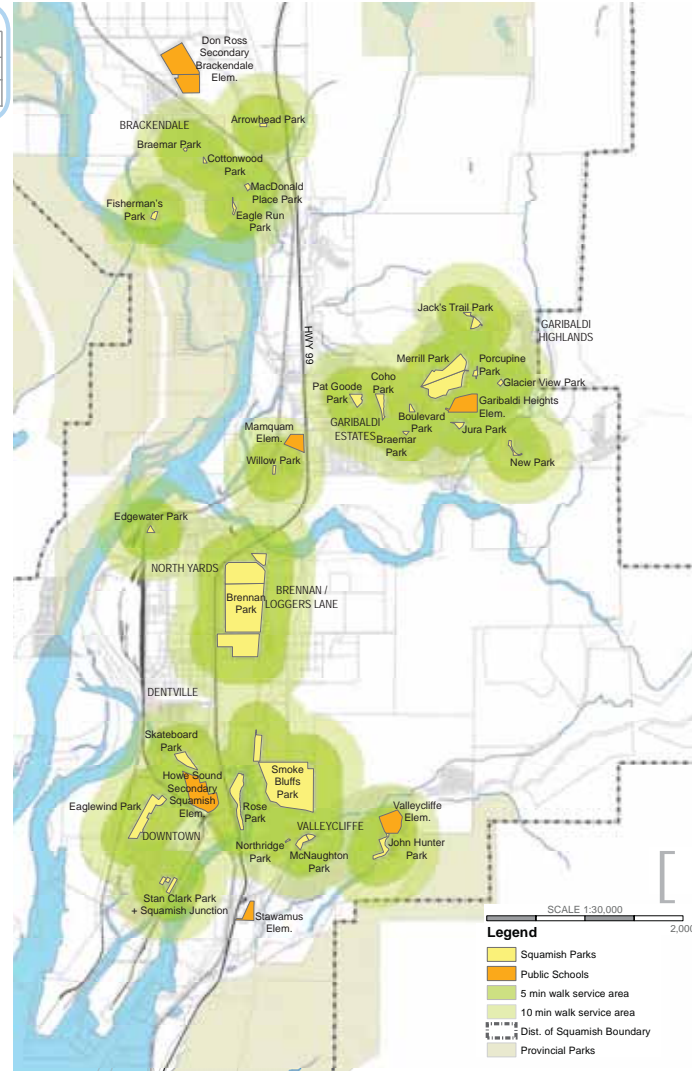
	2002 Park Standards	Current Inventory
Passive Community Parks	1.0 ha / 1,000 ppl	2.67 ha / 1,000
Active Community Parks	1.2 ha / 1,000 ppl	2.10 ha / 1,000
Neighbourhood Parks	1.4 ha / 1,000 ppl	0.68 ha / 1,000

## Park Gaps + Findings

- No Community Park in Brackendale and the neighbourhood parks are small with limited programming potential.
- No neighbourhood or community park in Dentville.
- As residential density increases in the Downtown area, the existing parks will be under additional pressure.
- There are no developed parks near Quest University in Garibaldi Highlands.
- Many parcels designated as "park" are actually environmental areas, steep slopes, or otherwise unusable areas leftover from development.
- Many of the existing neighbourhood park parcels are small and not readily visible or accessible or are within riparian areas, which results in under-utilization and vandalism issues.

## Recommendations

- Secure permanent park status for Brackendale Farmer's Institute Walking Park.
- Add benches, play area, picnic tables/shelter and landscaping at Fisherman's Park and Judd Beach.
- Further develop Carson Park / Skateboard Park parcel to include amenities for a wider range of users.
- Include a playground and other family-oriented amenities.
- Add a mtn.bike/BMX skills area adjacent to the skateboard park (as a satellite to a larger bike park at Brennan Park).
- Implement programming and events for the restored Stan Clarke Park.
- Plan for redevelopment and upgrades to Eaglewind Park in 5-10 years to enhance functions as a downtown community park, including stormwater management and a fenced dog park.
- Evaluate lands dedicated as "park" in the Quest University development for potential neighbourhood parks.



Parks + Service Areas

## Recommendations

The following are specific recommendations for park upgrade projects.

- Boulevard Park** - Improve visibility of the park through signage or entrance feature (boulder, plantings); see if there is potential for a Neighbourhood Park Stewardship Group; Potential informal play features like boulders and logs could activate this park in the limited space available.
- Braemar Park** - Replace existing playground; Improve visibility of the park through signage and entrance feature; see if there is potential for a Neighbourhood Stewardship Group; Consider "nature play" features rather than just equipment.
- Carson Place Park / Skate Park** - High priority location for a new 2-12 yr old playground at the north end to serve Dentville; potential for expanding the recreational activities adjacent to the skate park (BMX, mtn bike skills, basketball, sport court?).
- Coho Park** - Establish access agreement for trail crossing private property or develop alternative access plan; consider adding environmental interpretive signs geared toward elementary school age.
- Eaglewind Park** - Prioritize areas for drainage improvements and convert other poorly drained areas to native vegetation or bioswales; Plan for park renewal in 5-10 years, through a comprehensive design process; add a fenced off-leash dog area.
- Fisherman's Park/Judd Beach** - Add benches, play area, picnic tables/shelter, signage and landscaping; could be a northern off-leash dog park (review potential environmental impacts)
- Glacier View Park** - Consult with the neighbourhood to either designate as an official dog park or plan for park improvements such as a playground or bike skills features.
- John Hunter Park** - Increase mowing frequency. Partner with the school district to improve the adjacent Valleycliffe Elementary playground and connect to a nature play area within the park property. Potential for off-leash dog area along the river, outside of school hours.
- McNaughton Park** - Potential for mini mountain bike skills area as the Valleycliffe Trail and Crummet Creek Trail pass through. Develop a trail and drainage improvement strategy (i.e. trail behind tennis court).
- Merrill Park** - Acquire the existing building lot where the entrance is. Clarify entrances to this park and provide kiosk for trail map. Could be a good off-leash dog trails area.
- Pat Goode Park** - Develop drainage improvement strategy. Target specific areas for turf and drainage upgrades, while incorporating bioswales and native plants in wet areas.
- Porcupine Park** - Improve visibility of the park through signage and vegetation management; see if there is potential for a Neighbourhood Park Stewardship Group; Potential informal play features like boulders and logs could activate this park in the limited space available.
- Rose Park** - Explore connection over Mamquam Blind Channel to Smoke Bluffs with pedestrian bridge; would benefit from washrooms and a picnic / gathering shelter.
- Willow Park** - Potential dog park as there is an existing fence, but there may not be enough room.

## System Wide Recommendations

- Establish park acquisition guidelines to define the difference between environmental areas and usable park dedications.
- Include Recreation, Parks and Trails in the planning review process with regard to park dedications.

Develop a **Playing Fields Strategy** which includes:

Supply:

- Fields and Diamonds by sport (District and School fields).
- Seasons of use for each facility.
- Condition, capacity and life-cycle analysis for each facility. Determine a capacity for each field that allows fields to be well-maintained and also accounts for off-season upgrades.

Current Demand:

- Current enrollment and requirements for each field user group.
- Practice needs and game needs – facilities required and number of hours.

Joint Use Agreements:

- Develop a policy for joint use agreements with the School District for field use and maintenance.
- Strategic planning with the School District to upgrade school fields and development of new facilities to help meet demand.

Develop a **Field Allocation Policy** to provide a fair and transparent method of maintaining and managing District facilities. The following are suggested criteria to consider in the field allocation process:

- Is the permit applicant an established providers of quality recreational programs, primarily for Youth Sports?
- How many Squamish residents are participating? Include space for enrollment information in the application form including ages, male vs. female, resident vs. nonresident statistics.
- Previous performance of permit holders: adherence to policies, respect for field closures, occasions when permit holders did not use their allocated times, condition of the field, accuracy of enrollment information, etc.
- Historic use of fields and courts.

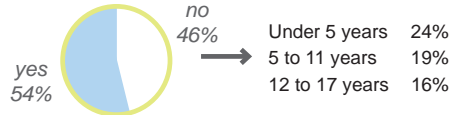
The following is a suggested priority program structure:

- Special events, provincial, national, and international championships.
- Seasonal play with majority bookings given to youth sports.
- Invitational, open and charity tournaments and events.
- Occasional play, practices, and exhibition games.
- Commercial groups.
- Other components may include guidelines and code of conduct / criteria for loss of privileges, tournament guidelines, lighting policy, keys and storage, field closure criteria, field maintenance and regeneration standards, cancellation policy for permit holders, peak / non-peak fees or allocation policy, etc.



# PARKS 2

## Households with Children:



## Phone Survey Comments:

- need more activities for children/ youth
- playgrounds: more, better, improve maintenance, new options

**46%** of Canadian kids get less than **3 hours** of active play per week, including weekends.

Source: Active Healthy Kids Canada, 2012 Report Card

**63%** of Canadian kids' time after school and on weekends are spent being sedentary.

Source: Active Healthy Kids Canada, 2012 Report Card

## PLAYGROUNDS

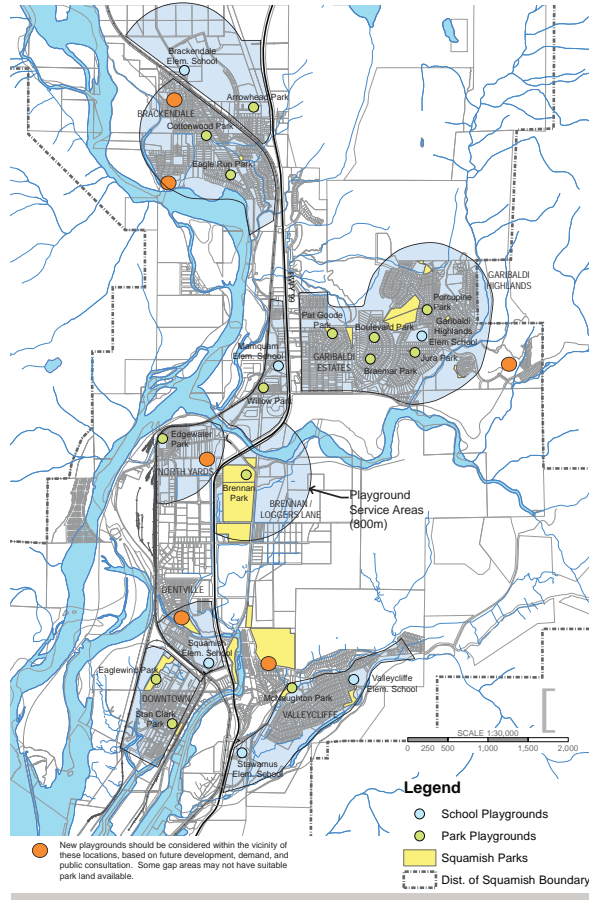
### Findings

- Squamish has a good quantity of playgrounds compared with other similar-sized communities. However, the quality and distribution of playgrounds needs improvement.
- There are no play areas in the Smoke Bluffs neighbourhood.
- Playgrounds in Squamish do not reflect the outdoor recreation opportunities or unique character of the community.
- There is a high proportion of children and youth in Squamish. Overall trends in Canada point to an increasing risk of reduced health and activity levels in children and decreased interactions with nature.
- There is public interest in increasing programming for children and youth.

### Recommendations:

- Continue the improvement and upgrade program already underway by Parks Operations. Consider incorporating the additional recommendations below:
- Priority playground upgrades:
  - Develop a nature+climbing themed play area at Smoke Bluffs Park as well as an official park entrance at Smoke Bluffs Road with info/map kiosk and toilet.
  - Implement a new direction for District playgrounds which includes a greater focus on nature play and reflecting the unique character of Squamish heritage and culture.
  - To accommodate future demographic changes, provide play spaces for the full range of ages 2-12 in each park.
  - Incorporate areas aimed to attract and engage teenagers such as mountain biking skills areas, basketball courts, informal lawn areas, informal seating and areas to gather and socialize overlooking an activity area.

## Playgrounds + Service Areas



## WATER PARKS

### Finding

- There is considerable public interest in a water/spray park.

### Recommendation

- Consider a play fountain / water feature at Squamish Junction Park, Brennan Park or within a park in the new Oceanfront Development area. The water feature should be designed to be a community amenity year round and for all ages. Precedents: Jamieson Square + Director Park, Portland.



## SMOKE BLUFFS PARK

### Finding

- Smoke Bluffs Park is one of the foundation parks of the District and should be a primary focus for improvement projects.

### Recommendations

- Dedicate Smoke Bluffs Park as parkland through bylaw.
- Develop a new neighbourhood park and entrance with a bouldering feature for kids, nature play area, a park kiosk, and a small gathering area (Smoke Bluffs Road).
- Pursue a pedestrian/bike crossing of the Mamquam Blind Channel from Rose Park.
- Implement the BC Parks model of climbing resource management that is used at Murrin and Stawamus Park. Define clear roles for climbing community volunteers and District staff. Key issues: removal of trees, monitoring of environmental impacts.
- Commercial operators should obtain a Park Use Permit from the District, but keep cooperative relationships and seek tie-ins with District recreational programs.

## DOG PARKS

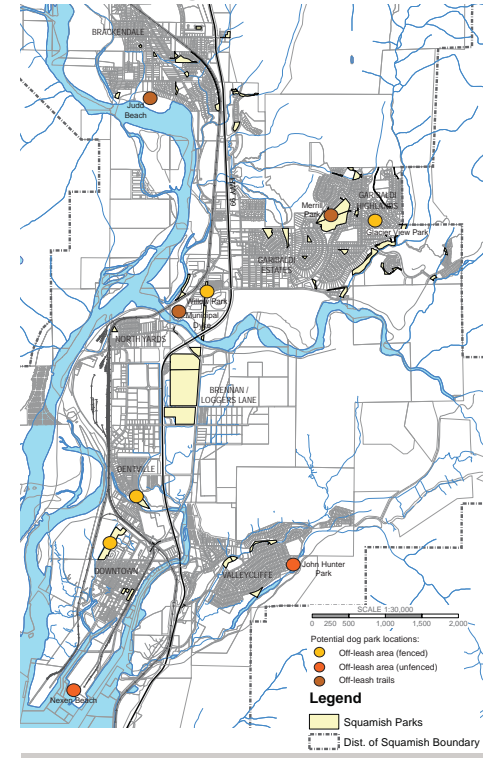
### Finding

- There is considerable public interest in formalizing dog parks and regulations within the District Parks system.

### Recommendations

- Develop a dog park and trails management plan.
- The map below shows potential dog park locations.

## Potential Dog Parks



# TRAILS, WATERFRONT + ENVIRONMENT

## TRAILS

### Findings

- Squamish completed a Trails Master Plan in 2011.
- Trails are a key part of recreation in Squamish and support 3 of the top 5 most popular recreation activities.
- Recreation trends are heading toward more drop-in, informal and flexible recreation activities, which trails and informal parks and natural areas support.
- A significant issue and barrier to connectivity is the BC Rail line that runs parallel and immediately adjacent to Logger's Lane in the downtown area. This prevents convenient pedestrian access to the channel shoreline and trail connections.

### Recommendations

Continue to implement the Trails Master Plan 2011 recommendations, such as:

- Make trail support a District priority.
- Work to secure trails and trailheads within the District.
- Connect neighbourhoods and community destinations.
- Celebrate Squamish's history and culture.
- Develop a Trail Network Marketing Plan.
- Establish a Trails Steering Committee.
- Support events on trails.

### Additional Recommendations:

- Identify parks located on major and minor trails, then create maps for the public that show park destinations with suggested connecting routes. Start with high profile parks: Smoke Bluffs Park, Rose Park, Brennan Park and then add in neighbourhood parks.
- Develop key trailheads with signage, parking, washrooms, and garbage/recycling. Coordinate with user groups (or the Trails Steering Committee) to prioritize trailhead enhancements.
- Support the volunteers who currently undertake maintenance and development of trails and recognize the economic benefits of their efforts.
- Undertake negotiations with BC Rail, CN Rail and other land owners with the objective of establishing improved public access across active rail lines, with due consideration for public safety and liability.

### Satisfaction with Outdoor Facilities

	Total Satisfied	Total Dissatisfied
Walking trails	94%	3%
<b>Bike trails</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>6%</b>
Parks and open space	87%	11%
Outdoor sports fields	81%	10%
Tennis Courts	62%	18%
<b>Facilities for ocean sports</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>34%</b>
Children's playgrounds	80%	13%

### Outdoor Rec Improvements

1. Sports fields improvement/more
- 2. Bike trails improvement/more**
- 3. Water/waterfront/beach access**
4. More activities for children/youth
5. More parks / dog parks

**Off-road cycling is the only activity where participation increased between the 5-12 yr olds and the 12-17 yr olds**

### Paper/Online Survey Responses

#### TRAILS FEEDBACK

- concern over access
- maintenance improvements
- need support from the District: maintenance, securing access, investment/funding support, support volunteers, prioritize trails
- dog leasing regulations/trail etiquette
- direct routes and paved trails connecting neighbourhoods
- multi-use trails (mountain biking, dirt bikes, trials, horseback riding, dog walking, walking, etc)

#### WATERFRONT FEEDBACK

- better access (community boat storage, better launching area for kayaks, canoes, wind sports, paddle boarding, etc)
- promote tourism / economic development
- Improve oceanfront park and trails

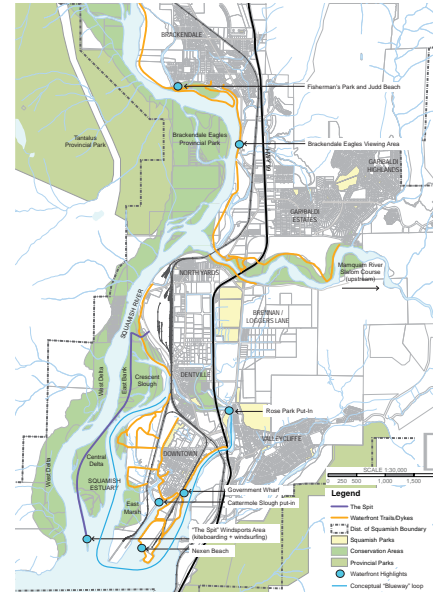
## WATERFRONT

### Findings

- Although there is a lot of waterfront, most is not parkland.
- As the downtown and Peninsula areas redevelop there will be opportunities to acquire new parkland or engage in joint development ventures to create new parks, public open space and amenities.

### Recommendations

- Actively include the Recreation Services and Parks Departments in planning for parkland and open space creation within the Oceanfront Development initiative.
- Pursue new parks and waterfront amenities (i.e. boat launch and storage) within the Oceanfront Development.
- Establish very clear and site specific development and public access agreements in new developments.
- Support the Squamish Windsurfing Society in the development of a management of the Spit for active public use and environmentally responsible enjoyment of the water environment. Ensure current issues such as camping and waste are managed appropriately.
- Consider creating an interpretive "Blueway" route for canoes and kayaks from the Estuary and Mamquam Blind Channel.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Findings

- A number of organizations have stepped forward to accept stewardship or management responsibilities for important environmental areas, but they would benefit from official support and advocacy.
- There is potential for partnerships between the District and First Nations, as well as other groups, organizations and agencies.

### Recommendations

- Identify opportunities for partnerships with organizations that can act as stewards of the environment.
- Develop guidelines for a decision-making process for establishment of compatible activities in sensitive areas.
- Advocate for continued public access and use of the waterways, trails and natural features in the Estuary.
- Establish improved control of Dyke Road parking and vehicular access to ensure safe public use.
- Create a plan for management of the Brackendale eagle viewing areas along the Squamish River and dyke.
- Seek opportunities to partner with the Squamish Nation on activities involving cultural history elements of the Estuary.
- Pursue opportunities to partner with the Squamish Nation to create recreational activities based on water sports, fishing, and nature interpretation associated with local rivers and the Estuary.

