District of Tofino

Recreation and Parks Master Plan

DRAFT
March 2026

DISTRICT OF Tofino



Photo: Kara Vogler

rcs+ Arts Consulting Group Stantec

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the traditional and unceded territory of the ƛaʔuukʷiʔatḥ (Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation), on whose ancestral lands the District resides.

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1.
INTRODUCTION

1.1. About Recreation and Parks Services in Tofino

The District of Tofino invests in recreation and parks services to create a community that is healthy and vibrant. The provision of quality recreation and parks services complements the region's abundant natural assets and opportunities, provides skill development, optimizes liveability, and fosters community.

Services are funded through a combination of taxation, user fees, grants, and donations and delivered using a combination of three approaches:

- **Direct delivery:** District of Tofino programming and other related activities use staff and facilities owned and operated by the District.
- **Indirect Delivery:** The District supports the provision of programming and related activities by operating facilities for community organizations to access through facility rental, special event processes or providing other types of monetary or in-kind supports (e.g. grants, equipment, in-kind space etc.).
- **Mix of Direct and Indirect Delivery:** Various blends of the direct/indirect approaches are sometimes used to provide opportunities, including contracts to third parties or partnership with external organizations.

Defining Recreation and Parks

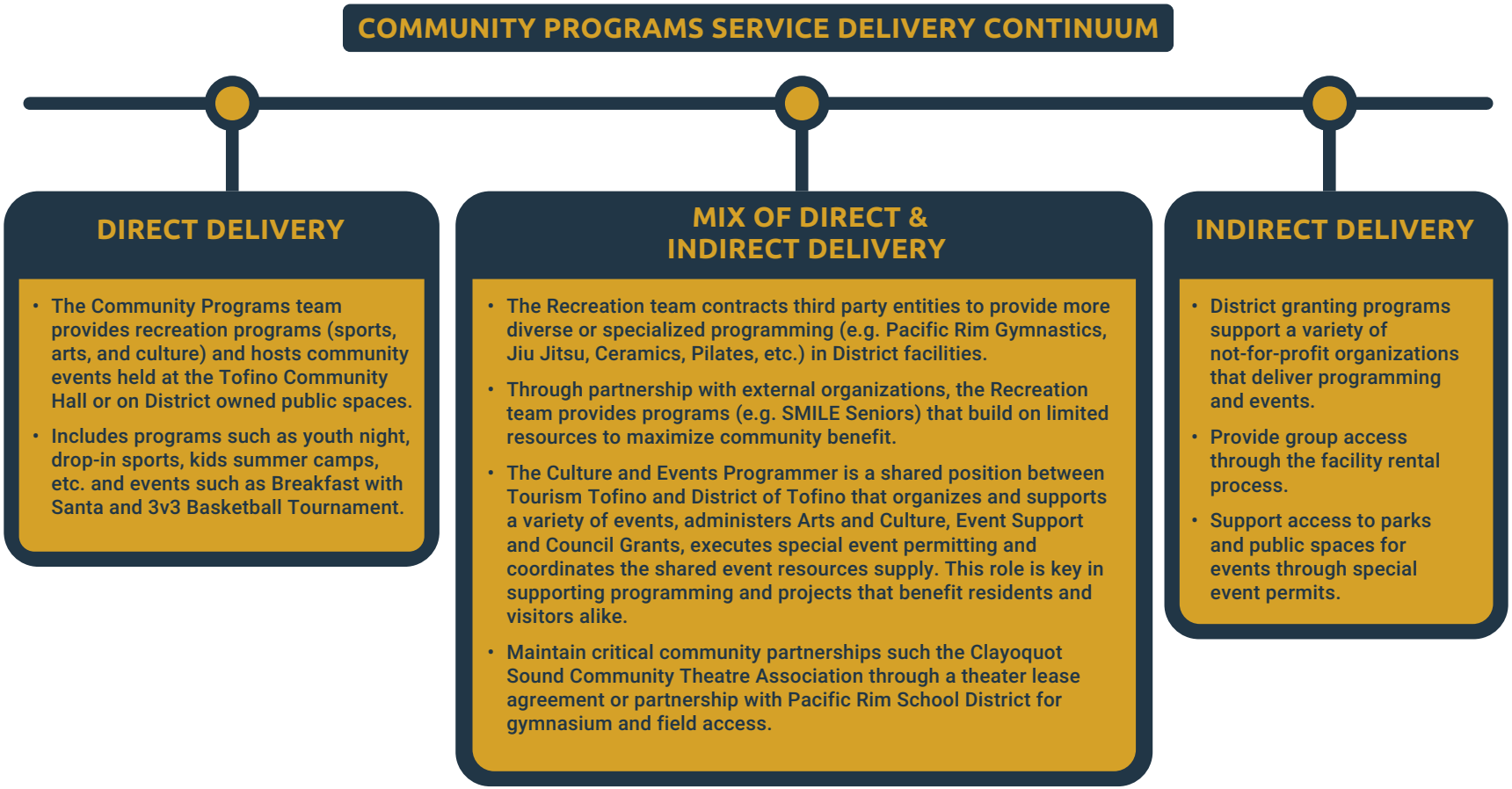
"Recreation" is a broad term that means different things to different people. According to the Framework for Recreation in Canada:

"Recreation is the experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative, and spiritual pursuits that enhance individual and community well-being."

Using this definition, recreation includes sports, casual activities, arts and culture, and other leisure-based pursuits.

Similarly, "parks" is often used to refer to a wide array of spaces and amenities. For the purposes of the Master Plan project, parks are formally designated, publicly managed spaces that includes playgrounds, spaces with sports fields and sport courts, beaches, plaza and similar gathering spaces, trails, and similar types of amenities.

Figure 1. Service Delivery Approaches



Two District departments are directly involved in the delivery of services. The department of Community Programs oversees recreation programming and cultural initiatives, and the department of Public Works and Infrastructure, oversees parks and facilities maintenance. A Recreation Advisory Committee exists with a mandate to advise Council on recreation related matters and ensures that a key touchpoint exists within the community that provides perspectives on recreation needs, opportunities, and future priorities. As referenced in Figure 1, partnerships and collaborations play a critical role in the provision of recreation and parks in Tofino. One example of critical community partnership is the District's relationship with Pacific Rim School District 70 enable community access to the Wickaninnish Community School gymnasium and sport fields.

A Benefits Based Lens to Providing Recreation and Parks Services

Public providers of recreation and parks services, including the District of Tofino, must continually attempt to define and delineate "need" from "demand". While there is no universal way to do this, a commonly used approach is to focus on the degree of community benefits provided by services. This concept attempts to create a distinction between:

- **Direct Benefits:** Accrued primarily by the program participant / facility user (e.g. personal health and wellness).
- **Indirect Benefits:** Accrued by all residents in a community regardless of whether they are direct participants (e.g. the community is safer, more vibrant, and prosperous because of services that create more positively productive and healthy youth, adults, and seniors).

Focusing service delivery and priority setting on programming and facilities that accrue maximum indirect benefits can most effectively leverage limited financial resources towards achieving maximum community impacts. This can be achieved by:

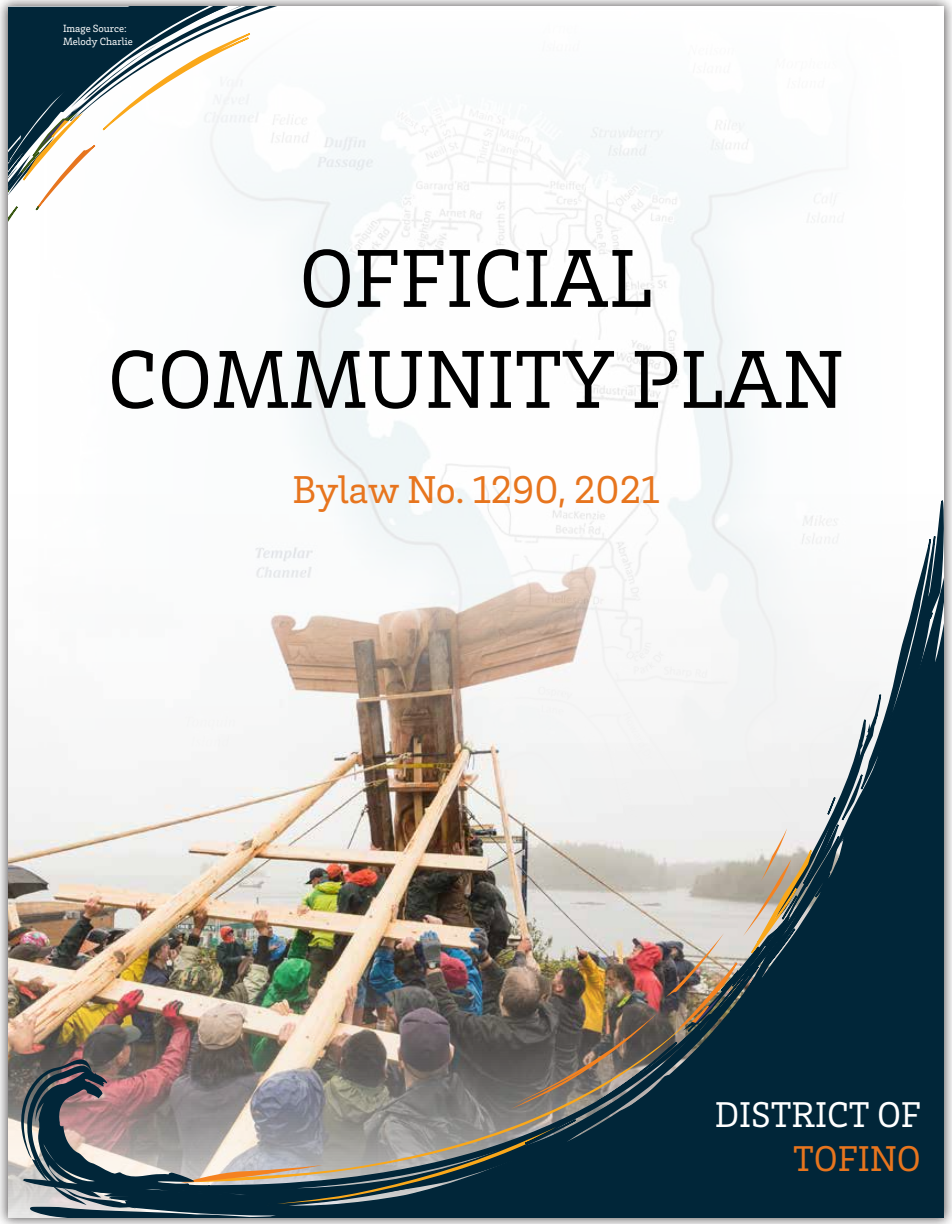
- Ensuring all residents and surrounding indigenous communities have access to opportunities regardless of financial means.
- Providing a diverse range of spaces and opportunities that are appealing to all ages and ability levels.
- Using recreation and parks as a mechanism for social connection, reconciliation and community building.

1.2. The Master Plan Purpose, Objectives, and Strategic Alignment

The Recreation and Parks Master Plan guides the District's delivery and investment in these services over the next 10 years to support decision making and priority setting. The Master Plan articulates how recreation and parks can help achieve or align with several other key strategic objectives of the District, including:

- Advancing reconciliation and decolonization
- Commitments to conversation and preservation
- Sustainable growth and development
- Service delivery quality
- Destination and tourism management
- Equity, access, and inclusion for all residents
- Supporting active modes of transportation
- Asset management

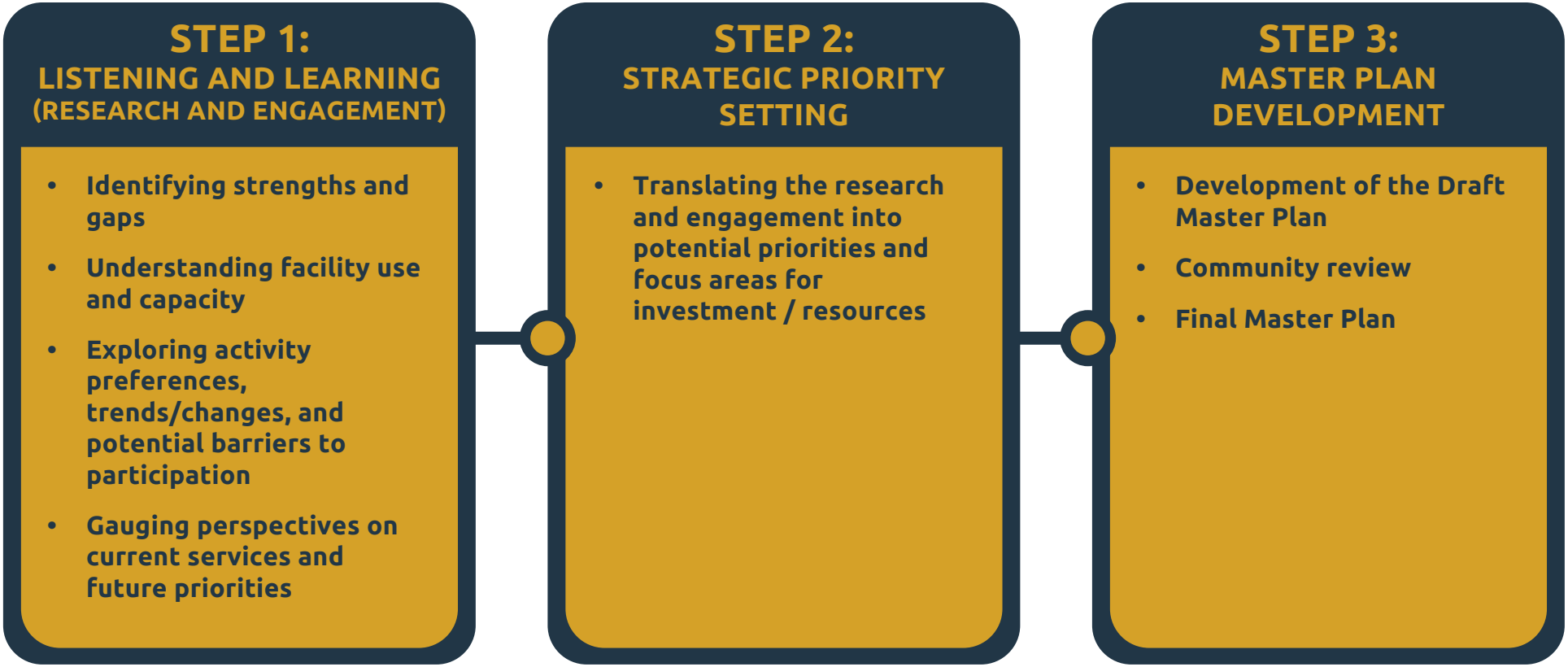
The above noted strategic objectives are referenced within the District's Official Community Plan (OCP) and other planning documents. Additional detail on pertinent municipal, provincial, and national planning documents, frameworks, and policies are provided in the Research and Engagement Summary Report.



1.3. The Master Plan Process & Inputs

The Recreation and Parks Master Plan was developed using a three-step process. A program of research and engagement was undertaken to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the strengths, gaps, and potential priority needs for recreation and parks in Tofino. These insights were disseminated, analyzed, and used to develop the Master Plan. Additional information on the key Master Plan inputs and tactics are provided in the Research and Engagement Summary Report.

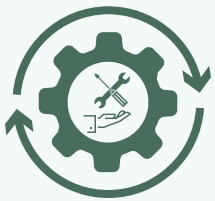
Figure 2. Overview of the Master Plan Process.



2.
GOALS

The following Goals provide a foundation for recreation and parks services in Tofino over the next 10 years and reflect key areas of focus. The Strategies and Actions identified in the following Section 3 are organized using these Goals. **Overarching to all of these Goals is ongoing dialogue and collaboration with Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation and Pacific Rim School District 70. These partnerships will be critical to ensuring that recreation and parks investment and services leverage maximum community benefit. Additionally, all three of the Goals help advance the District's commitment to accessibility (physical, social, and financial) in the provision of recreation and parks.**

Table 1: Overview of the Goals for Recreation and Parks

Goal	Rationale for the Goal	Targeted Outcomes of Achieving this Goal
Goal #1: Optimize Infrastructure 	The District manages an existing portfolio of recreation and parks infrastructure with a significant replacement value. These facilities and amenities have been developed over multiple decades and will require continued investment to ensure that they are safe, functional, and refreshed in alignment with ever evolving activity preferences and community space needs. Demand also exists for new types of facilities and amenities to be developed. The viability of adding new facilities to the inventory, while sustaining what already exists, will need to be carefully analyzed, planned, and balanced.	• Functional and safe facilities. • Recreation and parks infrastructure that meets a wide range of activity needs. • Recreation and parks infrastructure that is financial sustainable to operate and renew.
Goal #2: Optimize Service Delivery 	The delivery of recreation and parks opportunities in smaller communities relies heavily on community organizations, volunteers, and partnerships. The District plays a critical role in the recreation and parks 'ecosystem' by providing affordable space for groups and individuals to recreate as well as offer programs directly. Over the next decade, the District's service delivery model will need to continue to be adaptable and balanced in order to maximize and optimize the active living opportunities available for residents.	• Available resources of both the District and its community partners are leveraged to maximize recreation and related opportunities. • Balanced delivery model between programming offered directly by the District and indirectly supported through grants, provision of subsidized space, etc. • The District is able to adapt and evolve to trends and changing needs.
Goal #3: Optimize Land Resources 	Tofino exists in a beautiful and appealing geographic setting that draws residents and visitors. The District has a responsibility to conserve natural assets while managing sustainable growth. Land for new recreation and parks development is limited. The District will be required to ensure lands acquired and funded through the development process are maximized while placing an emphasis on conserving sensitive ecosystems and habitats. Additionally, sustainable parks planning can help advance conversation and sustainability efforts (e.g. park and open space designations help protect sensitive ecosystems and direct recreational use where it is most appropriate).	• District parks planning is aligned with and advances the District's 30 x 30 commitment. • Land acquisition and development for parks and recreation purposes reflects the unique community and land context of Tofino.

The Strategies and Actions identified in this section reflect the specific focus areas and priorities for recreation and parks in Tofino over the next decade, advancing the three Goals identified in Section 2.

Strategies: Organized under the three Goals, the Strategies provide forward-looking strategic directions.

Actions: Each Strategy has one or more associated Actions. The Actions are specific tactics required to carry out the Strategy's intended direction.

Preliminary timing and high-level, order of magnitude resource requirements have been identified for each Action. Timing and resourcing will require ongoing review and refinement by the District. Several of the Actions identify recommended next steps and planning to help further clarify these costs and other potential project requirements. The following table explains the symbols and terms used in the implementation tables throughout this section as they correspond to each Action.

Timing	Potential Capital Cost Impacts	Potential Potential Operating Cost Impacts
• ***Short Term*** *(0 – 3 years);* • ***Medium Term*** *(3 – 7 years);* • ***Long Term*** *(7 – 10 years);* • ***Deferred*** *(TBD);* • ***Ongoing*** *(continued practice)*	• ***$$$$$*** *(>$5M);* • ***$$$$*** *($1 – 5 M);* • ***$$$*** *($250k - $1 M);* • ***$$*** *($50 - $250k);* • ***$*** *(<$50k)*	• ***$$$*** *(significant incremental impact on the cost to provide services);* • ***$$*** *(moderate incremental impact on the cost to provide services);* • ***$*** *(minimal incremental impact on the cost to provide services);* • ***N/A*** *(not applicable/no incremental cost impact anticipated)*

3. STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

3.1. Goal #1 Optimize Infrastructure

Table 2: Summary of the Strategies and Actions

Strategy	Actions
3.1.1. Prioritize trail re-investment to maximize safety, accessibility and user experiences.	A. Ensure the ongoing renewal and replacement of trail infrastructure through targeted Asset Management Plans, and by adequately funding reserve accounts via the Capital and Infrastructure Levy. B. Develop a Trails Plan.
3.1.2. Develop recreational infrastructure.	A. Renovate existing spaces at the Community Hall to improve functionality, accessibility, and place-making appeal. B. Develop a business case and supporting advocacy and funding strategy to further develop a community hub.
3.1.3. Provide aquatics infrastructure.	A. Undertake a feasibility study to explore aquatics options in Tofino.
3.1.4. Village Green planning.	A. Develop a Village Green concept plan identifying priority improvements, phasing, and opportunities to better connect with surrounding infrastructure. B. Further explore sport court and skatepark lighting and improvements to support year-round usage.
3.1.5. Enhance community parks.	A. Develop a park renewal plan for Third Street Park in collaboration with Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation. B. Develop a new concept and action plan for Bert Demeria Park. C. Develop a park plan for Centennial Park.
3.1.6. Improve public space experiences.	A. Establish community gardens and develop a clear management structure to support the successful provision of this amenity. B. Use playground renewals as an opportunity to expand play diversity and place-making appeal. C. Develop a District Washroom Strategy to include in the Asset Management Plan.

Summary of the Strategies and Actions (continued)

Strategy	Actions
3.1.7. Improve access to the ocean.	A. Pursue funding opportunities to support increased physical accessibility to the beaches and foreshore. B. Assess ocean access as part of the Trails Plan by establishing water trails. C. Promote ocean safety.
3.1.8. Provide formal dog off-leash space.	A. Pilot dog off-leash locations. B. Explore options for designated dog-off leash trails within the Trails Plan. C. Educate residents on responsible dog off-leash use and impacts.
3.1.9. Address the needs of wheeled sports.	A. Determine need and evaluate cycling infrastructure. B. Ensure stable ongoing investments in the Tuffcity Skatepark through Asset Management planning.
3.1.10. Explore joint space use opportunities with Pacific Rim Pacific District 70.	A. Continue to partner on gymnasium access and sport field use. B. Identify future partnership opportunities to develop or renew existing spaces that can provide mutual benefit.



3.1.1. Prioritize trail re-investment to maximize safety, accessibility and user experiences.

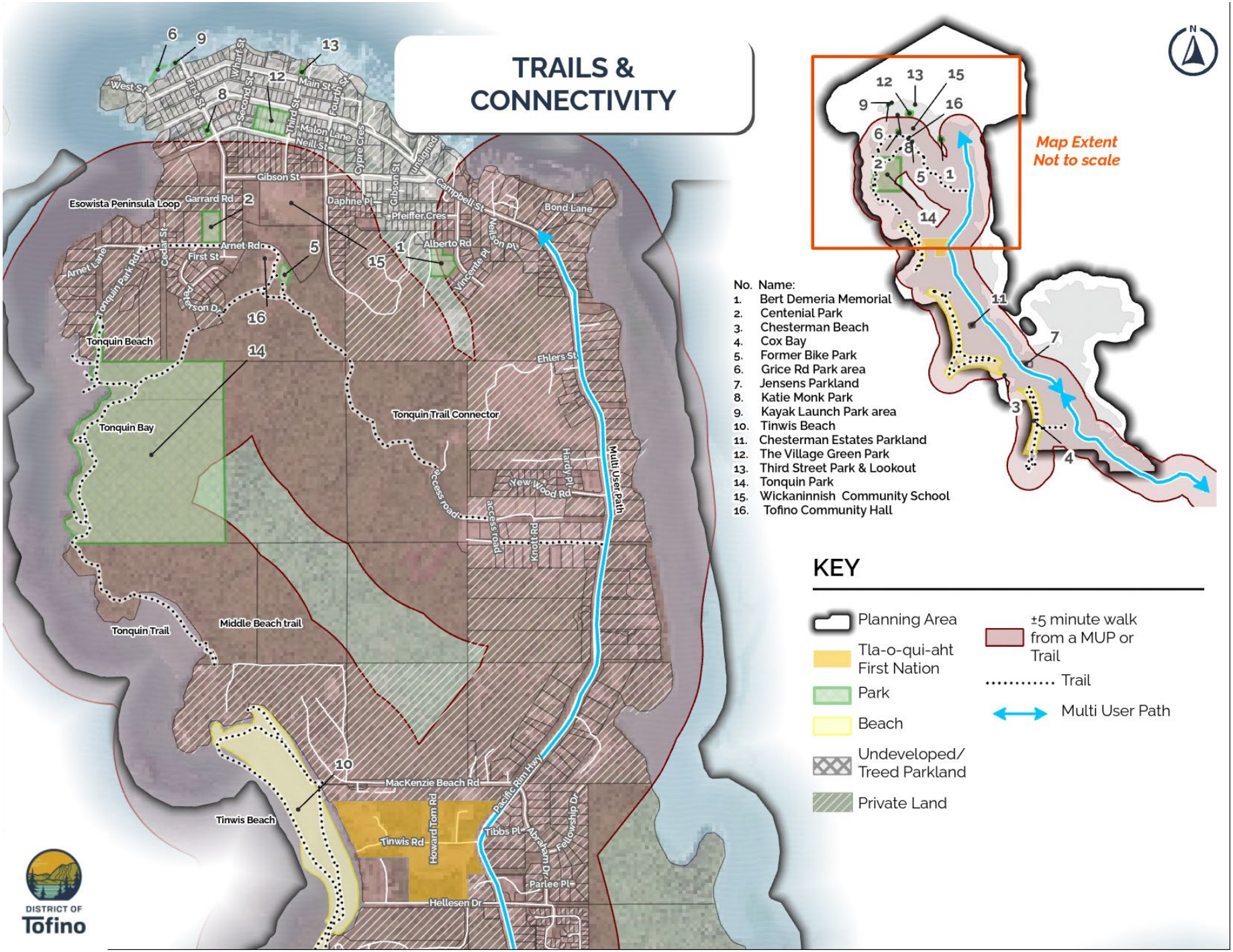
The District managed trails network encompasses two primary trail networks. The paved 8.8 km Multi-Use Path (MUP) runs parallel to Highway 4 and connects Tofino to the Pacific Rim National Park and Ucluelet beyond. As a linear route through the community, the MUP serves an important recreation and active transportation purpose. The Tonquin Trail and Connector features 3 kilometres of gravel trail with an additional 800 metres of boardwalks and stairs. Tonquin Trail stages from Tonquin Park near the Village Centre and connects out to Third Beach and Middle Beach. The 1 km connector part of the trail creates a loop back through to the Community Hall and Industrial Way.

What did we learn about trails from the research and engagement?

- 86% of Tofino residents can access a trail within a 5-minute walk.
- Walking / hiking is the most popular recreational pursuit amongst Tofino residents (74% of Resident Survey respondents walk/hike on a regular basis).
- There is a demand for trail investment (34% of Resident Survey respondents identified nature trails as a priority – second highest amongst all outdoor amenities).



Figure 3. Tofino Trail Network Access and Connectivity



Action A: *Ensure the ongoing renewal and replacement of trail infrastructure through targeted Asset Management Plans, and by adequately funding reserve accounts via the Capital and Infrastructure Levy.*

Future trails related planning and investment in Tofino should consider several key issues and factors:

- Some Tonquin Trail infrastructure is nearing end of life and requires replacement in the near term. These elements include boardwalks, stairs, and sections of the trail surfacing.
- Ongoing investment is required to sustain the MUP to support the mix of trail uses and purposes.
- Several beaches within Tofino are primarily accessed via trail routes, resulting in high levels and intensities of use.
- Trail networks are best positioned to leverage maximum community benefit when they balance dynamic and nature-based experiences with high levels of accessibility.

Guaranteeing sufficient lifecycle and capital reserve contributions will ensure that resources are available to proactively undertake capital repairs and renewal of key trail infrastructure, including surfacing, rails, boardwalks, stairs, ramps, and support amenities (e.g. washrooms). The District's asset management program should account for these future needs. It is recommended that trail infrastructure be prioritized amongst recreation and parks assets for lifecycle allocations given the high levels of use, equity factors (an amenity serving a wide array of ages, interests and ability levels), and importance in facilitating access to other spaces and facilities.

Implementation Timing and Requirements

Timing	Potential Capital Cost Impacts	Potential Operating Cost Impacts	Planning Resources Required
Ongoing	$$ ($50K - $250K)	N/A	N/A

Action B: *Develop a Trails Plan.*

The importance of trails to support recreation and active transportation uses was reiterated throughout the community engagement and research, with an identified need to both sustain existing trail infrastructure as well as better connect and expand the network. The development of a trails focused plan for Tofino is recommended to further explore specific trails projects and opportunities that align with the OCP and advance recreation priorities identified in this Master Plan. Well planned expansion and optimization of the trails network presents the opportunity to meet community demands for trails-based recreation while also advancing conservation and decolonization of public spaces. Providing dynamic and diverse trail opportunities reduces the prevalence of unauthorized or 'rogue' trail use, disperses wear and tear on trail tread across the network, and directs use to trails that are best suited for the activities they are designed for. Developing a trails specific plan provides the opportunity to develop specific tactics and identify projects that will help achieve these benefits. The following table summarizes the recommended core areas of focus for the Trails Plan.

Table 3: Suggested Focus Areas for the Trails Plan

Potential Key Topics / Issues for the Plan	Suggested Guidance to be Provided by the Trails Plan
Tonquin Trail Development and Management	• Detailed priorities for trail infrastructure and amenity renewal. • Viability of developing the trail to improve connectivity, emergency services access, experiential value, and better dispersion of trail traffic. This exploration should review ecological and cultural impacts, benefits, and costs (capital and operating). • Opportunities to improve interpretive and wayfinding signage.
Multi-Use Path (MUP) Expansion and Management	• Priorities for surface repair. • Priorities for signage lifecycle and enhancement. • Opportunities to connect the MUP with other trail and active transportation networks.
Overall Trails System Assessment and Management	• Development and formalization of a trails classification system to guide planning, operations, and ensure overall system alignment with broader objectives related to accessibility. • Assessment of shorter duration trails from parking lots / staging areas to beaches. This assessment should identify potential safety hazards, sensitive habitat risks and mitigation strategies, and signage gaps. • Guidelines for e-bikes, scooters, and other powered vehicles.
Ocean Access	• Assessment of the success of current initiatives aimed at improving accessibility to the water. • Identification of potential barriers limiting access and movement through the Village core to the inlet and harbour.

The Trails Plan needs to include significant dialogue with Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation that recognizes the importance of land and water stewardship in the community and surrounding areas. In particular, any future development of the trails network identified through the plan should occur through Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation dialogue.

The creation of a trails plan additionally presents an opportunity to review pertinent strategies and actions included in the District's 2019 Multi-Modal Transportation Plan (MMTP). Many of the strategies and actions in the MMTP related to multi-use pathways and system-wide connectivity remain highly relevant. The trails plans should build off this direction wherever possible.

Implementation Timing and Requirements

Timing	Potential Capital Cost Impacts	Potential Operating Cost Impacts	Planning Resources Required
Short Term	N/A (Trails Plan may suggest capital investments)	N/A	$75,000 (consulting, technical analysis, and plan development)

Multi-Modal Transportation Plan Strategies:

Walking Strategies

- Continue to enhance the multi-use path by implementing the District's Multi-Use Path Conditions Assessment Report
- Initiate feasibility studies for long term trail extensions from Tonquin Park Road south to Cox Bay Beach as well as the future Harbourfront Walkway
- Build upon the existing pedestrian network by providing multi-use paths, and connecting to trails throughout the District
- Incorporate updated multi-use paths and associated design standards in an update to the Subdivision and Development Servicing Bylaw

Cycling Strategies

- Continue to include amenities such as water fountains and bicycle repair stations throughout the community and as part of new active transportation facilities capital projects
- Explore the feasibility of providing end of trip equipment storage at popular recreational destinations
- Continue to implement the Tofino Wayfinding Signage Report

Figure 4. Recommended Walking Network Actions Identified in the Multi-Modal Transportation Plan (2019)

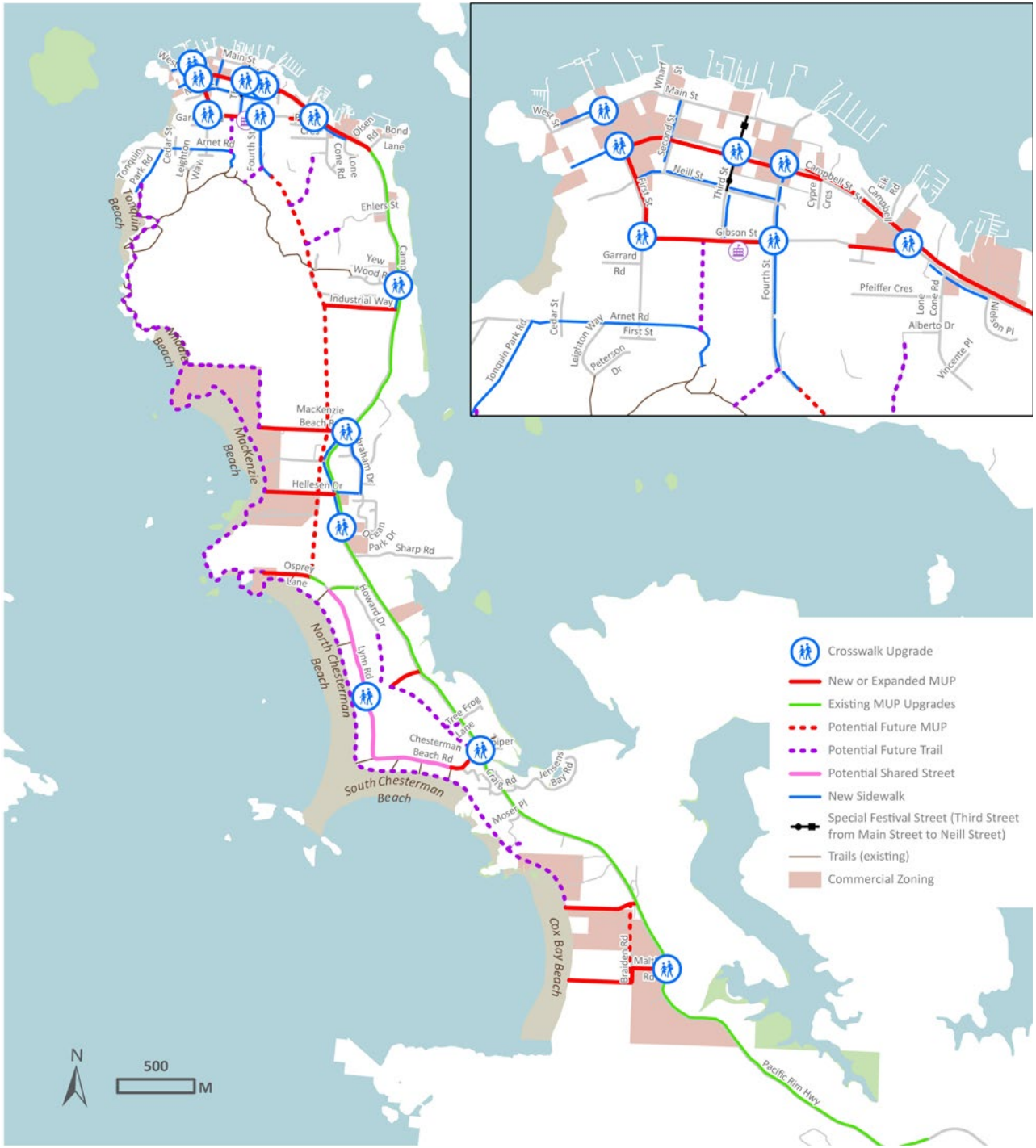
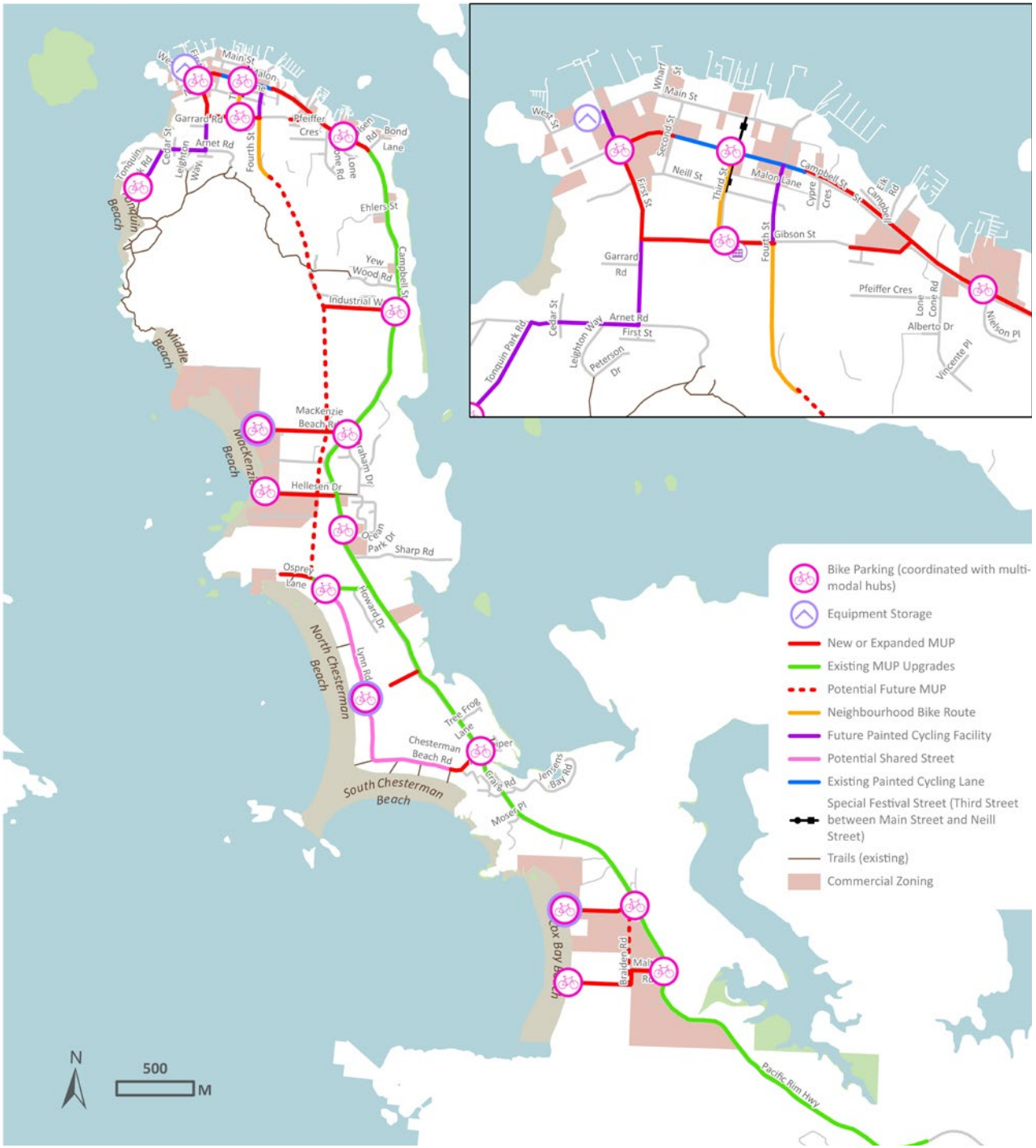


Figure 5. Recommended Walking Network Actions Identified in the Multi-Modal Transportation Plan (2019)



**Map Source: Multi-Modal Transportation Plan (2019)*

3.1.2. Develop recreational infrastructure.

The Tofino Community Hall was originally constructed in 2002 and expanded in 2018. The facility is the primary location for District offered programming and an important rental space for a host of community functions. The Community Hall is well-used, and critically important to the provision of programming in Tofino, however challenges with the overall volume and configuration of space present some challenges with meeting existing and emerging needs. While the District has been able to secure gymnasium time at the Wickaninnish Community School, it is limited to specific days and hours as to not interfere with school use.

A functional assessment of the facility identified several potential opportunities for improvement and optimization of space at the facility that, if undertaken, would improve accessibility, flow of traffic through the facility, and support increased programming capacity and community use (e.g. by being able to increase programming equipment kept on site, improved staff monitoring of space, etc.).

Over the past several years between 80-90% of all Main Hall time has been booked. The level of use has generally trended upwards over the previous 5 years (not including pandemic disruptions).

The need for multi-purpose programming space or establishment of a Community Hub has been explored and re-validated previously by the District, including within the 2015 Recreation Management Plan and development of the proposed Tofino Indoor Recreation Facility in 2018.



Action A: *Renovate existing spaces at the Community Hall to improve functionality, accessibility, and place-making appeal.*

Renovations focused on refreshing and improving existing spaces presents the opportunity to increase functionality of the Community Hall. The following investments are suggested.

Table 4: Recommended Community Hall Investments

Type	Description
Accessibility Improvements	Overall accessibility to the site needs improvement. Some initial recommendations for improvement include paving the parking area, adding sidewalks to the entrance, and adding accessibility features (e.g. automatic door openers throughout).
Storage	Expansion of on-site storage to enable additional equipment to be kept on-site and out of main recreation spaces; better supporting the range of programming that can be offered.
Building Configuration	Improvements to the overall building configuration to provide connectivity of the multi-purpose room to the washrooms and kitchen, bypassing the main room (e.g. enclosed/covered hallway between MPR and kitchen along the exterior) and future considerations for community hub and program space additions beyond the current hall.
Staff Spaces	Adding storage to the facility could allow for exiting spaces to be modified to accommodate staff offices. Staff office space could be considered as part of future expansion or community hub additions.
Exterior Aesthetics and Animation	Increase place-making and aesthetic appeal of the facility (interior/exterior) through public art, dynamic signage, and amenities that result in organic community gathering and increase traffic to the site (e.g mini-sport court, covered bike parking w/ e-charging, outdoor furnishings, covered spaces, etc.)

Implementation Timing and Requirements			
Timing	**Potential Capital Cost Impacts**	**Potential Operating Cost Impacts**	**Planning Resources Required**
Medium Term	$ / $$ ($50K - $250K)	N/A	$30,000 (concept design support)

Action B: *Develop a business case and supporting advocacy and funding strategy to further develop a community hub.*

The District has explored expansion of the Community Hall site for a number of years to address identified needs for additional large span and multi-use programming space. This 2018 Recreation Centre Functional Program Study outlined needs that resulted in the development of a recreation facility that included a gymnasium, fitness room, and other activity spaces (approximately 16,000 sq.ft.).

Expanding the site into a community hub remains a viable option to meet programming needs over the next ten years. A phased approach to expansion will support financial viability of expansion and reduce user impacts during construction. The following space considerations should be prioritized as part of the phased expansion.

- Development of dividable large span space (gymnasium / flexi-hall).
- Addition of program space with the ability to support arts and culture programs (e.g. wet rooms).
- Youth friendly spaces (dedicated or shared spaces).
- New entry area or 'social spine' with seating and casual gathering space.
- Accessibility throughout
- Development of leased space options for community purposes (e.g. library).

Updates to the 2018 Indoor Recreation Facility conceptual plan and cost analysis will be required to determine how the above recommended amenities could be phased and integrate into the existing space and proposed improvements identified in Action A (e.g. potential cost savings by conducting some renovations and expansions as part of the same phase).

While building out the existing community hub site is the focus, two additional factors could lead to the District exploring and identifying other sites in Tofino that could be developed to provide additional community centre or similar indoor programming space in the longer-term:

- Updated conceptual planning and cost analysis for the identified existing space renovations and expansions exceed 50% of the cost of building a new facility with these spaces.
- Current limitations to residential growth of Tofino are alleviated and updated population projections suggest that the community will rapidly grow beyond its current population of approximately 2,500 residents faster than anticipated.

Implementation Timing and Requirements

Timing	Potential Capital Cost Impacts	Potential Operating Cost Impacts	Planning Resources Required
Short Term	$$$$ / $$$$$ ($1 M - >$5M) **Updated concept planning and cost to revisit building options and associated costs.*	$$ (expanded space provision will require some additional staff and operating resourcing)	Minimum $30,000

3.1.3. Provide aquatics infrastructure.

Aquatics services are in high demand in most communities. Swimming educated and safety are valued by many as essential skill sets, especially in geographic settings located near natural bodies of water where residents routinely interact with the water for recreation or employment purposes. Additionally, pools have appeal across multiple ages and activity interests which supports multi-generational recreation and provides low barrier physical activity.

While the benefits of aquatics services are irrefutable, the capital and operational costs associated with providing aquatics services are significant. The costs associated with providing aquatics are unique within the recreation services context, driven by several key factors:

- **Construction complexity.** Pools requires specialized equipment, design expertise, expensive tank and deck materials, and are generally more complex to construct than many other types of recreation amenities (e.g. large span structures like gymnasium and arenas).
- **Fixed operating costs.** In general, major operating cost line items for pools such as utilities, chemicals, and staffing are fixed and not easily scaled up or down relative to use.
- **Limited revenue generation opportunities.** The success and benefits of pools provided by the public sector require a commitment to financial accessibility in program delivery and admission-based use. Higher revenue rental opportunities are often limited, especially for pools operating in smaller communities.

Future decision making on whether aquatics services in Tofino are viable will need to be informed by an up-to-date and comprehensive understanding of the available options and associated financial impacts.

Key Findings from the Engagement

57% of Resident Survey respondents identified a “leisure swimming pool” as a facility priority with 45% identifying “swimming tanks” as a priority (top 2 among all indoor and outdoor amenity types). Additionally, a common theme throughout the various engagement activities was the importance of an aquatics facility to attracting and retaining residents, providing water safety education, and the multi-generational value of a pool.

Action A: *Undertake a feasibility study to explore aquatics options in Tofino.*

As identified above there exists significant demand and benefits rationale for enhanced aquatics opportunities in Tofino. However, the District must also analyze the viability and best potential approaches for this service. Undertaking a feasibility study provides the District with the opportunity to explore its potential options and ensure that it has the entirety of information needed to inform future decisions on the viability of providing aquatics services.

The Tofino specific feasibility study should explore infrastructure and program options, costs (capital and operating), and potential levels of use for the following typologies of pools:

- Small scale outdoor and indoor pool (e.g. 25 metre x 4-6 lane tank with basic leisure amenities).
- Medium scale outdoor and indoor pool (e.g. 25 metre x 4-6 lane tank + expanded leisure amenities such as a separate tank, lazy river, etc.).

The study and subsequent planning also presents the opportunity to re-visit potential approaches for providing aquatics which could include direct provision or partnerships.

The West Coast Multiplex Society has been working towards the development of a regional facility located adjacent to the Tofino Long-Beach Airport for several years. Conceptual design and feasibility planning for the facility identifies an arena and pool as core facility elements. Alberni–Clayoquot Regional District Bylaw No. E1056, originally adopted in 2012 and amended in 2017, establishes an operational funding model (service) for the potential facility that includes the District of Tofino, District of Ucluelet, and Electoral Area C. To advance the project, capital funding is required. While grants and other fundraising initiatives may be a possibility to fund part of the facility, especially given the regional nature of the facility, it is likely that the existing partners in the service will need to contribute some level of capital funds for the facility to become a reality.

Should the District's feasibility study re-validate the regional provision of aquatics as a viable alternative to meet Tofino's aquatics services needs, it is recommended that the District support advancement of the Multiplex project in the following ways:

- Proactively engage in dialogue with the other project partners to explore capital funding models and approaches;
- Support grant applications by providing letters of support.
- Encourage the Multiplex partners to develop an updated feasibility study on the Multiplex project that provides clarity on costs including projected escalation (capital and operating), funding approaches, government and management structures, and potential phasing options.

In addition to providing the project partners with updated information to inform future decision making, an updated study will also be helpful to support future grant applications and other fundraising initiatives. Once the study is complete, it is suggested that all potential project partners gather for an annual check-in to ensure support and viability of the project remain.

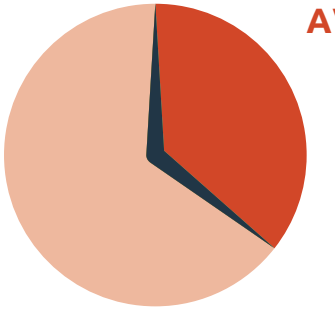
Implementation Timing and Requirements			
Timing	**Potential Capital Cost Impacts**	**Potential Operating Cost Impacts**	**Planning Resources Required**
Short Term	$$$$$ (>$5M) (feasibility study to validate costs for the potential options)	$$$	$50,000 (consulting)



3.1.4. Village Green Planning.

The Village Green is a destination park and public realm space in the heart of Tofino that supports an array of activities and events enjoyed by locals and visitors. Approximately 37% of Tofino residents can walk to the Village Green within a 15-minute walk (1,200 metres), making the site one of the most accessible outdoor recreation spaces in Tofino.

Movement data sampling of the parks system in Tofino also identified several interesting use characteristics of the Village Green site. Approximately 75% of visitation to the site was by non-locals with an average visitation duration of 21 minutes.



AVERAGE VISIT DURATION:
21 MIN

VILLAGE GREEN

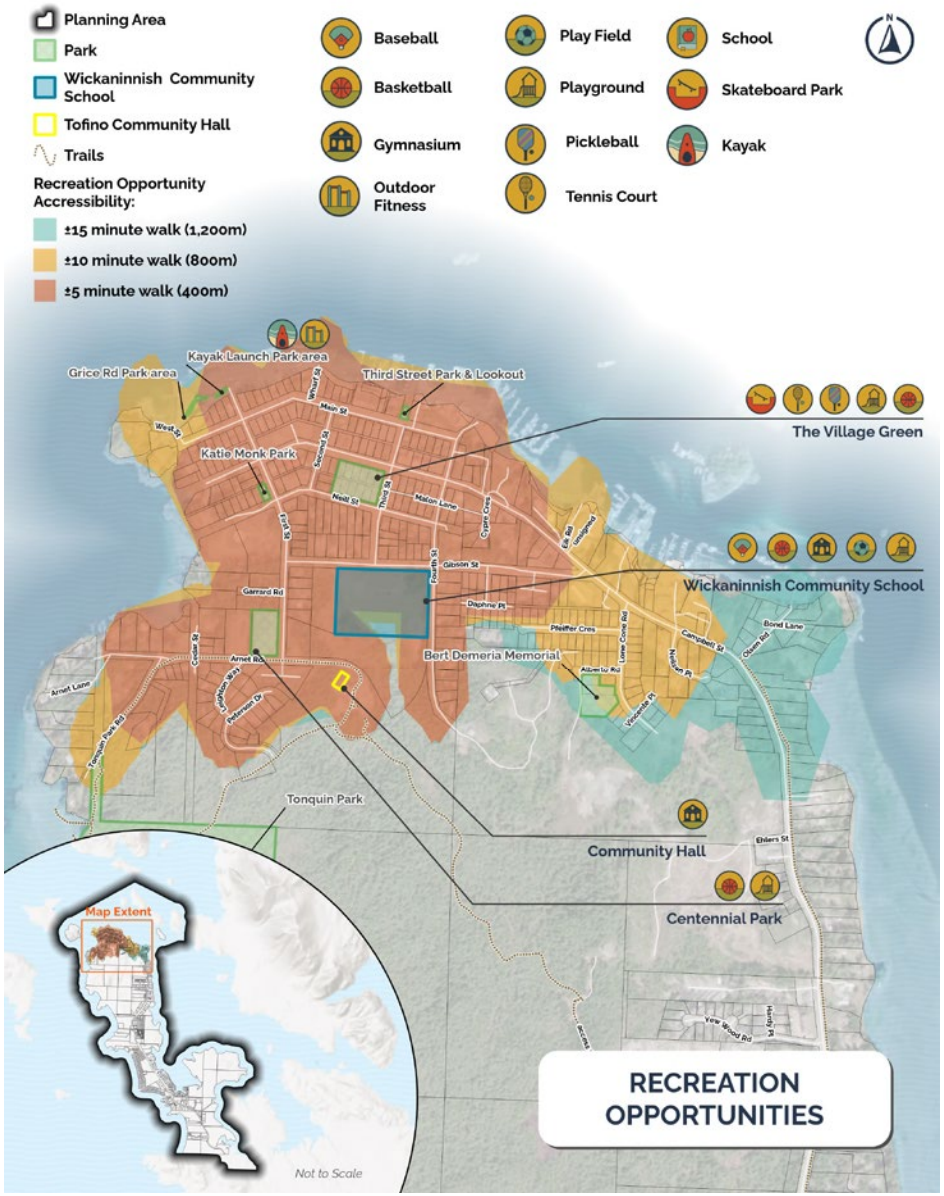
TOTAL VISITS
31,723

TOTAL VISITS (LOCAL):
7,931

TOTAL VISITS (NON-LOCAL):
23,792 (75%)

**Data sourced from Propulso. Visit counts reflect those mobility devices associated with individuals ages 18 years and older (children and youth not reflected in the counts).*

Figure 6. Walkability to the Village Green and Other Key Outdoor Spaces in Tofino



Action A: *Develop a Village Green concept plan identifying priority improvements, phasing, and opportunities to better connect with surrounding infrastructure.*

The conceptual plan for the Village Green should build upon previous recommendations while also integrating updated considerations based on the Master Plan engagement, site review, and best practice. The following focus areas and priorities are recommended for exploration through the updated concept:

- Opportunities to improve connectivity through and to the site. (e.g. accessible pathway to sport courts on Village Green side of facilities, continued tiered seating towards Second Street.)
- Large covered space to support expanded use during the winter months for casual use, social gatherings, and events.
- Installation of new or re-configuration of existing amenities to improve space efficiency. (e.g. gazebo renewal, bicycle rack, etc.)
- Continual asset planning for the replacement of infrastructure (e.g. play structures, sport court features, etc.)

The visioning and concept planning for the site should include engagement with regular site user groups and residents. As with any existing site, technical factors and site conditions will impact what is viable and these elements will require a thorough review as part of this recommended action.

Implementation Timing and Requirements			
Timing	**Potential Capital Cost Impacts**	**Potential Operating Cost Impacts**	**Planning Resources Required**
Short Term	$ / $$ (<$50K - $250K) (planning to validate options and costs)	N/A (to be validated through planning)	$30,000 (concept planning)

Action B: *Further explore sport court and skate park lighting and improvements to support year-round usage.*

The sport courts and Tuffcity skate park, located along Neill Street, are popular amenities at the Village Green. The addition of lighting presents an opportunity to expand use of the sport courts and skate park into the evening hours, especially outside summer months. However, before proceeding with the addition of lighting the following factors require further review:

- Light pollution into surrounding properties, especially residential properties.
- Noise disturbance if expanded use is enabled through the evening hours.
- Cost-benefits of the investment (will the provision of lighting significantly expand use to levels that reasonably rationalize the cost).

Implementation Timing and Requirements			
Timing	**Potential Capital Cost Impacts**	**Potential Operating Cost Impacts**	**Planning Resources Required**
Short Term	$ (<$50K)	$ (requires further exploration of costs and potential user pay vs District responsibilities)	N/A



3.1.5. Enhance community parks.

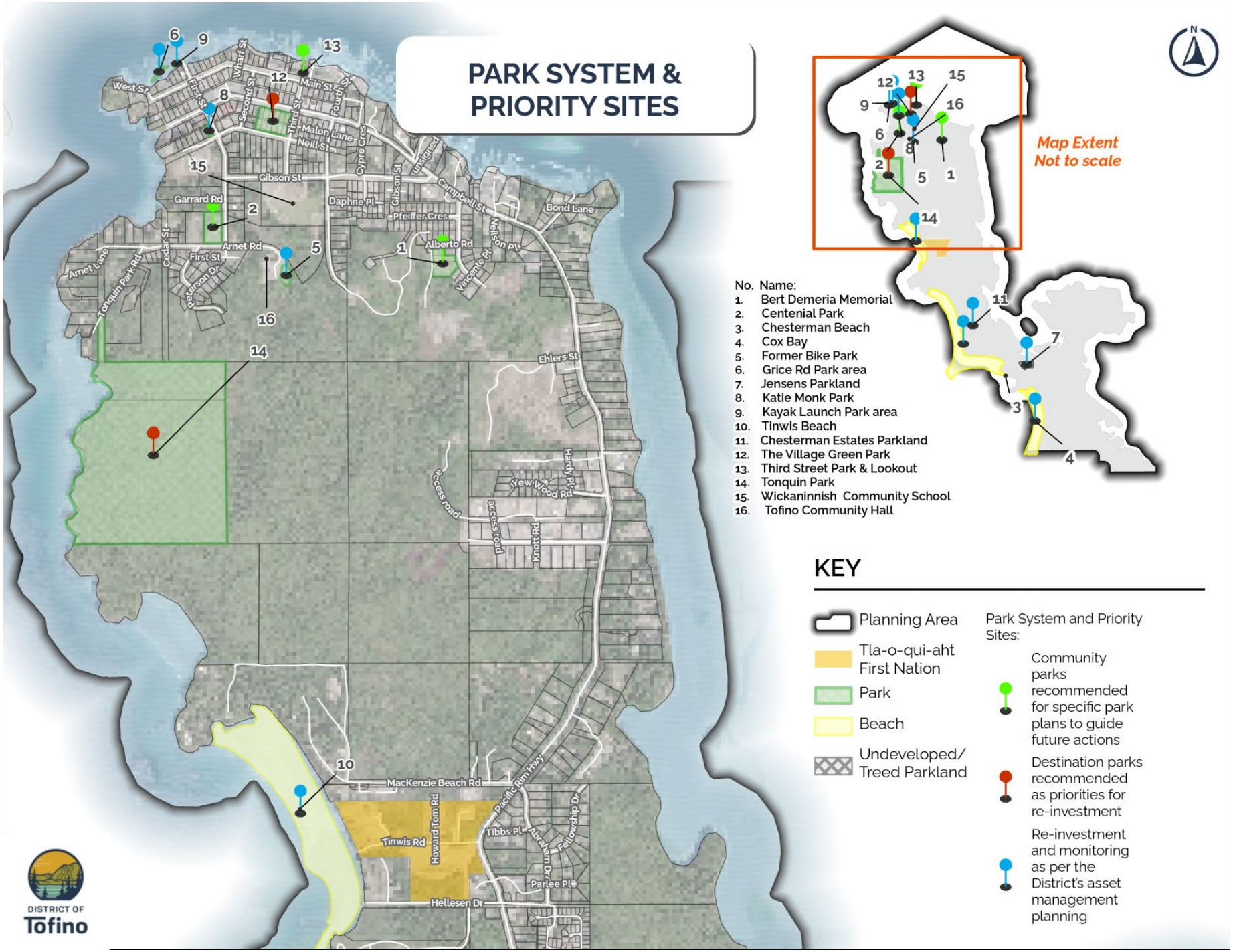
Parks are a highly valued and desired amenity in Tofino that provide low-barrier recreation and leisure opportunities to all ages and across a wide spectrum of physical ability levels and interest. While lifecycle investment and the identification of enhancement opportunities should be reviewed across the parks system on an ongoing basis, three specific park sites are identified for priority investments based on meeting at least two of the following criteria:

- Existing infrastructure in need of replacement.
- Located in an area of the community that is potentially underserved for walkable park access.
- Unique site characteristics and use dynamics (e.g. provides sightlines to the water for passive use/enjoyment, stages access to a trails system, etc.).
- Challenges with the site have been noted through the community and / or staff engagement.

The three community parks that meet the criteria are Third Street Park, Bert Demeria Park, and Centennial Park.



Figure 7. Park System Map and Priority Sites



Action A: *Develop a park renewal plan for Third Street Park in collaboration with Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation.*

Third Street Park provides a unique vista above the inlet and currently encompasses interpretive signage and benches. Renewal of site infrastructure, including fencing and signage will help facilitate continued safety and basic enjoyment of the site. An opportunity also exists to expand the interpretive value and overall appeal of the park site, creating a destination within the park system that is easily accessible from the village core.

As the site overlooks the village of Opitsaht, renewal of the site should be undertaken with a focus on reflecting and educating visitors on Tla-o-qui-aht culture and connection to the surrounding lands and waters. Ways to achieve this focus should be identified through collaboration with the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation and could occur through:

- Integration of new Indigenous art installations.
- Park naming.
- Interpretive signage.
- Ceremonial amenities / spaces within the park.

Implementation Timing and Requirements

Timing	Potential Capital Cost Impacts	Potential Operating Cost Impacts	Planning Resources Required
Medium Term	$$$ ($250K - $1M)	$	$30,000 (planning and engagement)



Action B: *Develop a new concept and action plan for Bert Demeria Park.*

Bert Demeria Park is located within the Clayoquot View Estates subdivision, a residential area of the community with relatively minimal access to community parks. The park consists of open green space with forested areas on three sides creating a natural boundary for the space. Previous engagement and planning for the site has resulted in mixed perspectives on future uses for the site and level of animation (e.g. amenity installation) that is appropriate and beneficial for the site. Site drainage and slope conditions are also limiting factors for intensive use (e.g. mini-sports field) unless addressed.

While some limitations exist and localized (neighbourhood) demand for additional park amenity installation is unclear, the site remains one of the few larger, cleared community park parcels in Tofino.

Opportunities recommended for exploration through a refreshed concept and action plan for the site include:

- Creating a trail head and connection from the south corner of the site.
- Managing park and pedestrian access around the site to ensure safety.
- Potential community garden use.
- Installation of park amenities that can foster community gathering and neighbourhood place-making (e.g. picnic shelter, additional benches, etc.).
- Small sport field for practice.

Development of the refreshed concept plan and vision should occur through neighbourhood engagement and focus on creating a park space that is aligned with the neighbourhood context while retaining the ability to adapt in the future as demographics evolve.

Implementation Timing and Requirements

Timing	Potential Capital Cost Impacts	Potential Operating Cost Impacts	Planning Resources Required
Medium Term	$ / $$ ($50K - $250K)	$	$15,000 (concept planning)

Action C: *Develop a park plan for Centennial Park.*

Despite its relatively small footprint, Centennial Park contains several amenities including a gazebo, picnic benches, outdoor ping pong table and play equipment. The site's proximity to Tonquin Park and the Tonquin Trail system also impact park use, with many visitors parking near the site or crossing through it on route to the Tonquin Park and Trail. While the park is well used and provides a diverse mix of experiences, future planning can help further optimize how the space is used and managed.

Key topics and opportunities that should be explored through a specific park plan for Centennial Park include:

- The best long-term mix of amenities (e.g. which amenities should be renewed or phased out when they require replacement).
- Managing park and pedestrian access around the site to ensure safety.
- Purpose for the park (e.g. balance of passive vs program/ event-based use).
- Potential as a bike skills park location option.
- Potential as an off-leash dog park option.

Implementation Timing and Requirements

Timing	Potential Capital Cost Impacts	Potential Operating Cost Impacts	Planning Resources Required
Medium Term	$ / $$ (<$50K - $250K)	$	$15,000 (concept planning)



3.1.6. Improve public space experiences.

Beyond the specific park planning suggested as part of the 3.1.5. actions, a handful of broader parks actions should be undertaken to optimize the overall system, address identified gaps and integrate best practices in park design and management.

Action A: *Establish community gardens and develop a clear management structure to support the successful provision of this amenity.*

Resident demand exists for community gardens to be available in Tofino. The level of demand is likely to increase as some densification occurs in the community and a higher proportion of residents do not have the space or amenities to support home-based gardening.

Establishing community garden plots in Tofino will require clarity around two key elements:

- Management of community garden infrastructure.
- Siting of community garden infrastructure.

Management of Community Garden Infrastructure

It is recommended that the District develop a formal Community Garden policy and procedure integrating the following core elements:

- Parameters for approving community garden projects in existing and new parks led by neighbourhood groups or other community garden organizations.
- Parameters for considering community gardens on other public lands, such as boulevards and streetscapes.
- Siting requirements (as per the recommended criteria on the following page).

What did we learn about the parks system through the research and engagement?

- ***Emerging demand exists for community gardens (35% of Resident Survey respondents identified community gardens as an investment priority – highest among all outdoor amenity types).***
- ***Tofino families value nature based play for their children.***
- ***Accessibility and equity are important community value.***

In some instances, the District may be warranted to directly install and manage community gardens based on identified benefits (e.g. food education, place-making initiatives, etc.), or the lack of a group to manage community gardens in an area of identified demand.

Siting Criteria for Community Gardens

Community gardens are a relatively low cost, high value amenity addition that can enhance many spaces. However, some key criteria and site characteristics are required to ensure that community garden infrastructure is best positioned for success and mitigates potential negative impacts.

Table 5: Recommended Community Garden Siting Criteria

Type	Description
On-site water supply	• Direct connection to water supply and hoses. • Rain collection barrels on-site and used as a primary source.
Orientation	• Sufficient sunlight conditions. • Space orientation to maximize plots within the available space.
Monitoring / visibility	• High level of visibility from adjacent roadways, pathways, and residences to mitigate vandalism and other issues.
Wildlife factors	• Not located within a wildlife corridor. • Ability to install fencing / netting to prevent wildlife consumption. • In alignment with WildSafeBC requirements.
Existing park amenities	• Does not impact existing park / site uses. • Ideally, pre-existing amenities such as benches, trail access, etc. exist to support user experience and reduce cost.

Implementation Timing and Requirements			
Timing	**Potential Capital Cost Impacts**	**Potential Operating Cost Impacts**	**Planning Resources Required**
Short Term	$ (<$50K)	$	N/A

Action B: *Use playground renewals as an opportunity to expand play diversity and place-making appeal.*

The lifespan of playground equipment is typically 15-20 years. Over this duration trends, preferences, best practices, and local demographics evolve. Renewal of playground equipment should not simply look to replicate what currently exists on the site, but rather seek to achieve the following recommended outcomes:

- Integration of natural and risky play features and elements.
- Integration of design characteristics and features that support place-making by reflecting local geography, culture, and other themes.
- Provide play experiences across a wider array of ages.
- Provide play diversity relative to other play equipment in the community (e.g. do not replicate what already exists).
- Wherever possible, create physically accessible play opportunities.
- Support other adjacent infrastructure (e.g. help create sites with multiple recreational opportunities, share support infrastructure, etc.).

The above criteria should be reviewed as playgrounds renewals are undertaken within exiting parks, as well as future sites where play equipment or features may be considered.



Implementation Timing and Requirements			
Timing	**Potential Capital Cost Impacts**	**Potential Operating Cost Impacts**	**Planning Resources Required**
Ongoing	$/$$ ($50K - $250K)	$	N/A

Action C: *Develop a District Washroom Strategy to include in the Asset Management Plan.*

The provision of washrooms is a critical aspect of equity and inclusion in parks and other recreation spaces. It is recommended that the District review washroom provision as part of a broader Washroom Strategy in alignment with the District's Asset Management Plan.

As it pertains to the parks and trails system, the Washroom Strategy should focus on:

- Identifying the types of parks where permanent and/or portable washrooms should be available. ****The recommended parks classification system provided in Section 3.3. provides initial guidance on the types of parks where washrooms should be located.***
- Providing design standards in alignment with best practice for washrooms to maximize physical accessibility, inclusion, and safety for all individuals (e.g. standards in consideration of Rick Hansen Universal Design Guidelines, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles, etc.).
- Outlining management practices to support use and safety.
- Providing best practice guidance on minimizing negative environmental impacts of providing washrooms.
- Long-term asset management considerations including staff levels and replacement/maintenance costs



Implementation Timing and Requirements			
Timing	**Potential Capital Cost Impacts**	**Potential Operating Cost Impacts**	**Planning Resources Required**
Short Term	$/$$ ($50K - $250K) (Strategy to suggest priorities for capital investments)	$ (requires exploration through the Strategy)	$30,000 (planning and technical support)

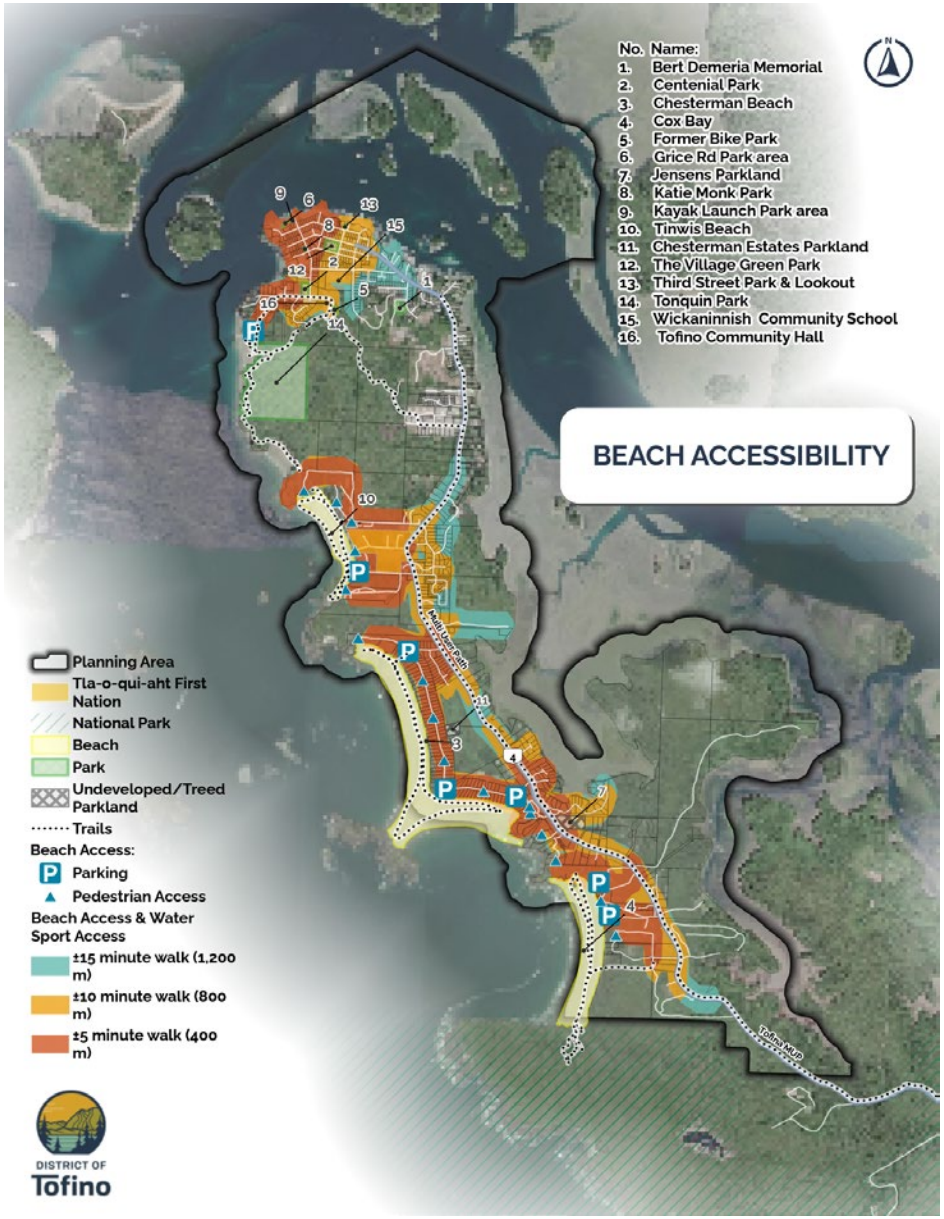
3.1.7. Improve access to the ocean.

Tofino is located on a peninsula, and the geographic setting of the community is a core aspect of identify, culture, recreation, and lifestyle. The majority of residents in Tofino have walkable access to a beach setting. However, access to the inlet side is limited for many recreational uses. The following actions are aimed at helping to create enhanced opportunities for all residents and visitors to access the ocean.

Access to the Ocean in Tofino – By the Numbers

- 30% of Tofino residents can walk to the kayak launch within 15-minutes.
- 45% of Tofino residents can walk to a preferred beach for surfing (Chesterman Beach and Cox Bay) within 15- minutes.
- 75% of Tofino residents can walk to a beach within 15- minutes (over half can walk within 10 minutes).

Figure 8. Current Beach and Ocean Access Points & 5,10, and 15 Minute Walking Radius



Action A: *Pursue funding opportunities to support increased physical accessibility to the beaches and foreshore.*

While the beaches and other water access points in and near Tofino are plentiful, the District should identify opportunities to ensure all residents have access to these opportunities, including those individuals that face barriers. The installation of the accessible beach ramp to Cox Bay and the Mobi-Mat at Tinwis reflect two examples of the District's efforts and investments to help support accessibility. It is recommended that the District continue to identify other opportunities (and associated funding sources) to support these best practice alignment initiatives.

Implementation Timing and Requirements			
Timing	**Potential Capital Cost Impacts**	**Potential Operating Cost Impacts**	**Planning Resources Required**
Ongoing	N/A	N/A (staff to support grant writing with community partners)	N/A



Action B: *Assess ocean access as part of the Trails Plan by establishing water trails.*

Public hand launch points are currently limited to one formal location, although, in practice, launching occurs in Tofino through other access points on public and private lands. Formalizing additional public locations can help increase recreational use and support safety.

Given the practical relationship between hand launch sites and the trails network, further analysis of potential sites should be undertaken using the following criteria as part of the recommended Trails Plan (see Section 3.1.1, Action B).

- Accessibility via the transportation network (current or planned)
- Ecological considerations (e.g. recreational, non-motorized use of the site does not present a significant risk to sensitive marine ecosystems or foreshore environments)
- Safety (e.g. tides and currents, proximity to industrial or other uses of the inlet, etc.)
- Site suitability for the installation of a dock (if required), parking, signage, etc.



Implementation Timing and Requirements			
Timing	**Potential Capital Cost Impacts**	**Potential Operating Cost Impacts**	**Planning Resources Required**
Short Term	N/A (Trails Plan may suggest capital investments)	N/A	As per Trails Plan action (See 3.1.1, Action B)

Action C: *Promote ocean safety.*

Tofino remains one of British Columbia's most popular tourism destinations, with ocean recreation and enjoyment as a primary draw. While the vast majority of residents and visitors enjoy ocean settings safely, risks exists, especially among individuals that are unfamiliar with the unique climate and coastal characteristics of Tofino – including how to read tides, currents, storms, and other risks.

To foster increased ocean safety the District should:

- Continue working with its partners such as Tourism Tofino, Parks Canada, Coast Smart and local ocean sport and recreation organizations to educate individuals and promote ocean safety.
- Regularly review beach access points for ocean safety signage and equipment opportunities.

Implementation Timing and Requirements

Timing	Potential Capital Cost Impacts	Potential Operating Cost Impacts	Planning Resources Required
Ongoing	N/A (Trails Plan may suggest capital investments)	N/A	N/A

3.1.8. Provide formal dog off-leash spaces.

The District does not currently provide a dedicated dog off-leash site. In 2022, the District undertook community engagement and explored potential locations that may be suitable for formal off-leash use. Findings from the community engagement undertaken for the Master Plan further validated that demand persists for an off-leash dog area.

Several negative impacts can occur because of dog's being off-leash in areas not suitable for this activity, including:

- Safety for people and smaller dogs
- Disturbance of bird and marine habitats
- Conflicts with animals

Establishing a designated off-leash area for dogs can help channel off-leash activities to appropriate locations, thereby mitigating potential concerns. Additionally, formalizing these designated spaces facilitates communication and enforcement efforts by offering clear alternatives or options for dog owners.

Key Findings from the Engagement

32% identified dog off-leash areas as an amenity type/space priority – fourth highest among all outdoor types of space



Action A: *Pilot dog off-leash locations.*

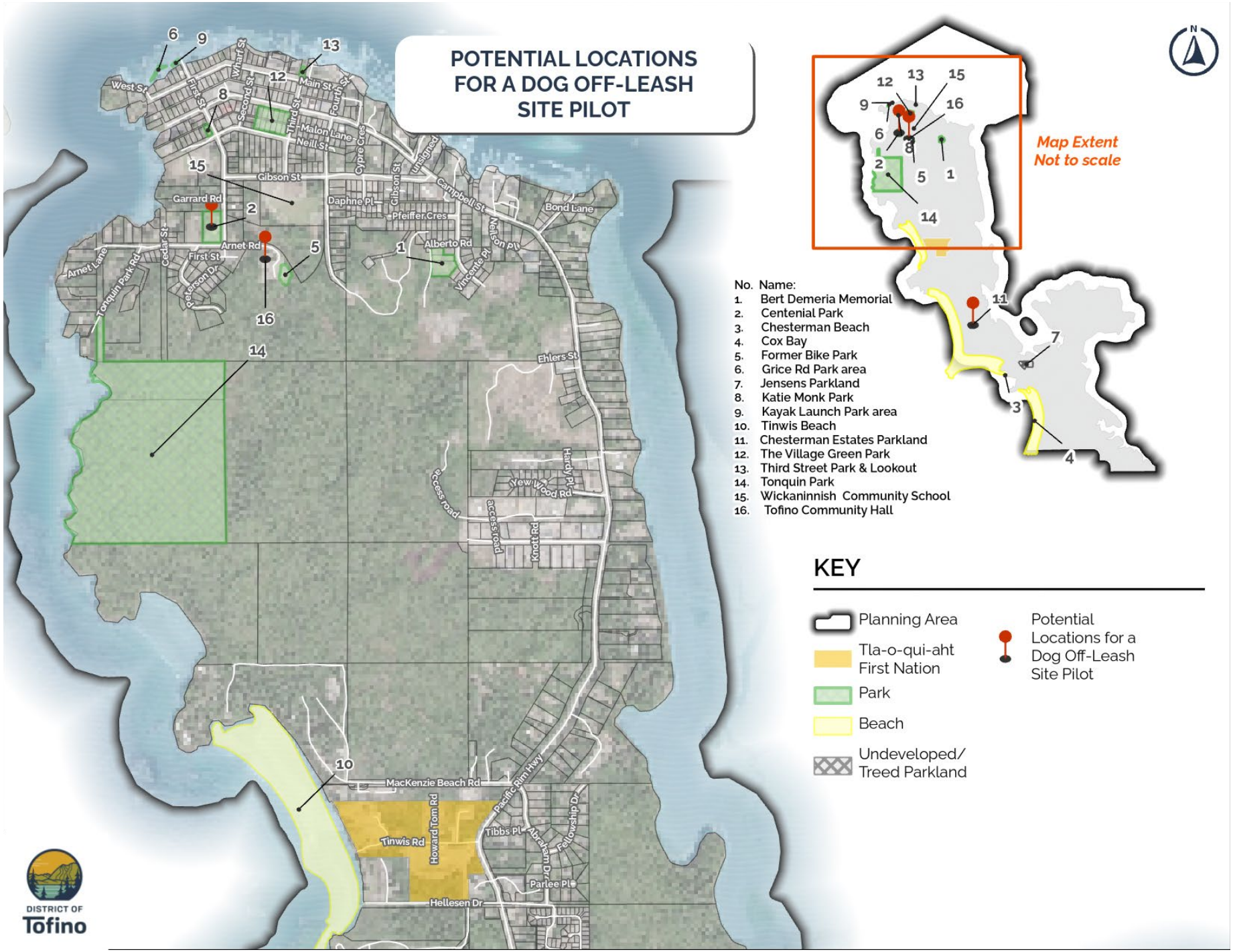
As an initial steps towards formalizing a dog off-leash area, it is recommended that the District pilot a designated dog-off leash location for a period of 2 years for permitted activities. This length of time will enable a sufficient sample size of time to assess the success of a site and whether it is suitable for permanent formalization as a dog off-leash area.

Table 6: Overview of Potential Pilot Locations for Dog Off-Leash Use

Location	Rationale	Key Considerations
Old Bike Park (land adjacent to the Community Hall)	• Well connected to the trails network. • Central location in Tofino. • Relatively well contained site. • Parking, washrooms, and water available at the Community Hall.	• The District will need to determine if long-term dog off-leash use is the best value purpose for this land. • Signage will need to clearly communicate that dogs are only permitted off-leash within a certain boundary (not at the Community Hall or adjacent trails). • Further analysis of risk and viability with existing and future park uses. • Future use for this purpose should be undertaken with environmental, conservation, and safety considerations as primary evaluation criteria. • Clear signage must communicate where specifically dogs are permitted off-leash and outline rules/ parameters for responsible dog off-leash use.
Centennial Park	• Park size. • Location and proximity to the trail network.	
Chesterman Estates parkland (currently undeveloped parkland)	• Park site within District of Tofino that is currently undeveloped. • Natural forested area requiring little infrastructure (fencing) to create a dog park. • Public parking and washroom located along Lynn Rd and at North Chesterman and Frank Island beach entrance.	

Implementation Timing and Requirements			
Timing	**Potential Capital Cost Impacts**	**Potential Operating Cost Impacts**	**Planning Resources Required**
Short Term	$ / $$ (<$50K - $250K)	$ / $$	$50,000 (planning support)

Figure 9. Potential Locations for a Dog Off-Leash Site Pilot



Action B: *Explore options for designated dog-off leash trails within the Trails Plan.*

The Trails Plan identified in Action 3.1.1 (Action B) should include exploration of, and provide guidance on, dog-off lease use on trails.

Potential trails that may be suitable for designated dog off-leash use should be identified along with best practices from other jurisdictions in managing the following factors and impacts:

- Protecting sensitive ecosystems adjacent to trails.
- Safety for other trail users and uses.
- Amenity provision (e.g. waste bags, water, staging areas, etc.).

The trails plan may recommend that the trails system in Tofino is not well suited for any or very limited dog off-leash use based on the above factors (or others). Alternatively, the plan may identify one or more trails where formalizing dog off-leash use provides benefits by meeting community demand and directing activity to trails that are most suited for it.

Implementation Timing and Requirements			
Timing	**Potential Capital Cost Impacts**	**Potential Operating Cost Impacts**	**Planning Resources Required**
Short Term	N/A (Trails Plan may suggest capital investments)	N/A	As per Trails Plan action (See 3.1.1, Action B)

Action C: *Educate residents on responsible dog off-leash use and impacts.*

To complement Actions A and B, placing an emphasis on educating and promoting responsible dog off-leash use is important. These efforts should focus on individuals recognizing sensitive habits and ecosystems where dog presence can be negative and overall consideration for the safety of other people and animals.

Suggested tactics should include:

- Signage at trail heads, parks, and beaches.
- Provision of waste bags.
- Communications via social media and other District platforms.

Implementation Timing and Requirements			
Timing	**Potential Capital Cost Impacts**	**Potential Operating Cost Impacts**	**Planning Resources Required**
Ongoing	N/A	N/A	N/A



3.1.9. Address the needs of wheeled sports.

Action A: *Determine need and evaluate cycling infrastructure.*

The removal of the bike park resulted in a net loss of a recreational amenity in Tofino. The District should work towards replacing this amenity or developing another wheeled sports amenity through a community development approach. Building capacity in an organization to champion the project will support its long-term sustainability and buy-in. More specifically, establishing a strong community partner organization will support fundraising efforts, planning, and potentially ongoing aspects of operations (e.g. monitoring, basic maintenance, etc.).

Should the District move forward with a new bike skills parks, pump track, or other type of biking amenity a suitable site will need to be identified. The following table outlines several optimal criteria for siting this type of amenity that can be used to filter or rank future potential sites.

Table 7: Optimal Bike Park Siting Criteria

Criteria	Description / Characteristics	Level of Importance
Access via the active transportation network	• Site is likely to be primarily accessed on bike, including youth without access to a motorized vehicle. As such, connection via pathways and trails is critical. • Connection to trails that provide additional skill progression opportunities is optimal but not required.	High
Site size	• To be identified once the specific type of amenity is further clarified.	High
Site access	• Site access by emergency services should be considered a mandatory required (ambulance, fire, etc.). • Ideally, a site would also have ease of access for maintenance and monitoring.	High
Pre-existing grade characteristics	• An ideal site has existing grade and conditions that can be integrated into design.	Moderate
Proximity to existing wheeled sports or other youth focused amenities	• Synergies with amenities like skateparks, courts, youth spaces, etc. are optimal to provide a range of experiences at a single site but not required.	Low / moderate

Action A Implementation (Determine need and evaluate cycling infrastructure)

Implementation Timing and Requirements			
Timing	**Potential Capital Cost Impacts**	**Potential Operating Cost Impacts**	**Planning Resources Required**
Medium Term	$$ ($50K - $250K)	$	$30,000 (planning and concept design)

Action B: *Ensure stable and ongoing investments in the Tuffcity Skatepark through Asset Management planning.*

The Tuff City Skatepark is a highly valued asset in the heart of the community and reflects the outcome of a community driven project. The skatepark provides a good range of features and skill progression for skate.

The skatepark infrastructure is currently in good condition and the location within the Village Green hub of amenities allows for shared use of washrooms and other amenities. The District should continue to invest in sustaining the site through repairs and amenity upgrades as required.

Implementation Timing and Requirements			
Timing	**Potential Capital Cost Impacts**	**Potential Operating Cost Impacts**	**Planning Resources Required**
Ongoing	$ (<$50K)	N/A	N/A

3.1.10. Explore joint space use opportunities with Pacific Rim School District 70.

The District of Tofino maintains a strong relationship with Pacific Rim Pacific Rim School District 70. Expanded access to the gymnasium at Wickaninnish Community School has helped meet some community demand for programming space. Upgrades have also been undertaken to the Wickaninnish Community School Sports Fields.

These upgrades enable the fields to support a wider array of activities, better support team sports, and improve user experience and safety.

As with most small communities, partnership between the municipality and School District will be critical to maximizing limited public space and overall recreation and leisure opportunities.

Action A: *Continue to partner on gymnasium access and sport field use.*

The District of Tofino should continue to partner with Pacific Rim School District 70 to maximize community access to the school gymnasium and look for ways to continue to invest in the development of shared amenities related to their use. Until future development of new large span, multi-use programming space occurs, the gymnasium at Wickaninnish School remains the largest indoor space available for youth and adult sport, fitness classes, and other gymnasium activities.

The recently refurbished sport fields will significantly enhance and require ongoing commitments from both organizations to ensure long term suitability of these assets. By working together to maximize use of the fields, the District of Tofino and Pacific Rim School District 70 can maximize the return on investment (community benefit) into this space.

Implementation Timing and Requirements			
Timing	**Potential Capital Cost Impacts**	**Potential Operating Cost Impacts**	**Planning Resources Required**
Ongoing	N/A	N/A	N/A

Action B: *Identify future partnership opportunities to develop or renew existing spaces that can provide mutual benefit.*

The District of Tofino and Pacific Rim School District 70 should continue to identify opportunities for collaboration, especially pertaining to mutually beneficial amenity projects. As with the school gymnasium and sport field collaborations, working together can maximize the benefit of these spaces for both students and broader community.

Potential collaborative space opportunities that could be explored include:

- Renewal or creation of a covered outdoor sports box/court area.
- Enhancement of the lower sport field.
- Playground expansion.
- Renewal/functionality improvement of gymnasium.

Implementation Timing and Requirements

Timing	Potential Capital Cost Impacts	Potential Operating Cost Impacts	Planning Resources Required
Ongoing	TBD (as per collaborative planning and discussions)	TBD (as per collaborative planning and discussions)	N/A



3.2. Goal #2 Optimize Service Delivery

Table 8: Summary of the Strategies and Actions

Strategy	Actions
3.2.1. Utilize a combination of direct, indirect, and partnership-based approaches to deliver programming.	A. Support community organizations through granting programs. B. Use the program evaluation tool to inform programming decisions. C. Collaborate with Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation to identify joint programming opportunities.
3.2.2. Support and Identify aquatics experiences and opportunities.	A. Explore external partnerships to provide aquatics education, skill development and access. B. Develop ocean-based swimming lessons and programming. C. Assess the viability of providing aquatics opportunities in Port Alberni.
3.2.3. Expand overall programming capacity in the community.	A. Work with local organizations to offer introductory programming for nature-based recreation and sport activities. B. Increase efforts to support volunteer capacity development for recreation. C. Work regionally to facilitate a critical mass for sports teams and leagues. D. Advocate and support efforts to reduce barriers to participation.
3.2.4. Support events, arts, culture and heritage .	A. Review and update Public Art policy to address new funding mechanisms and expanded integration into public spaces. B. Support and partner with arts and culture organizations. C. Support grant applications to senior levels of government and other external sources of funding for strategic programs/project. D. Ensure District event support aligns with core values as identified in District of Tofino plans.

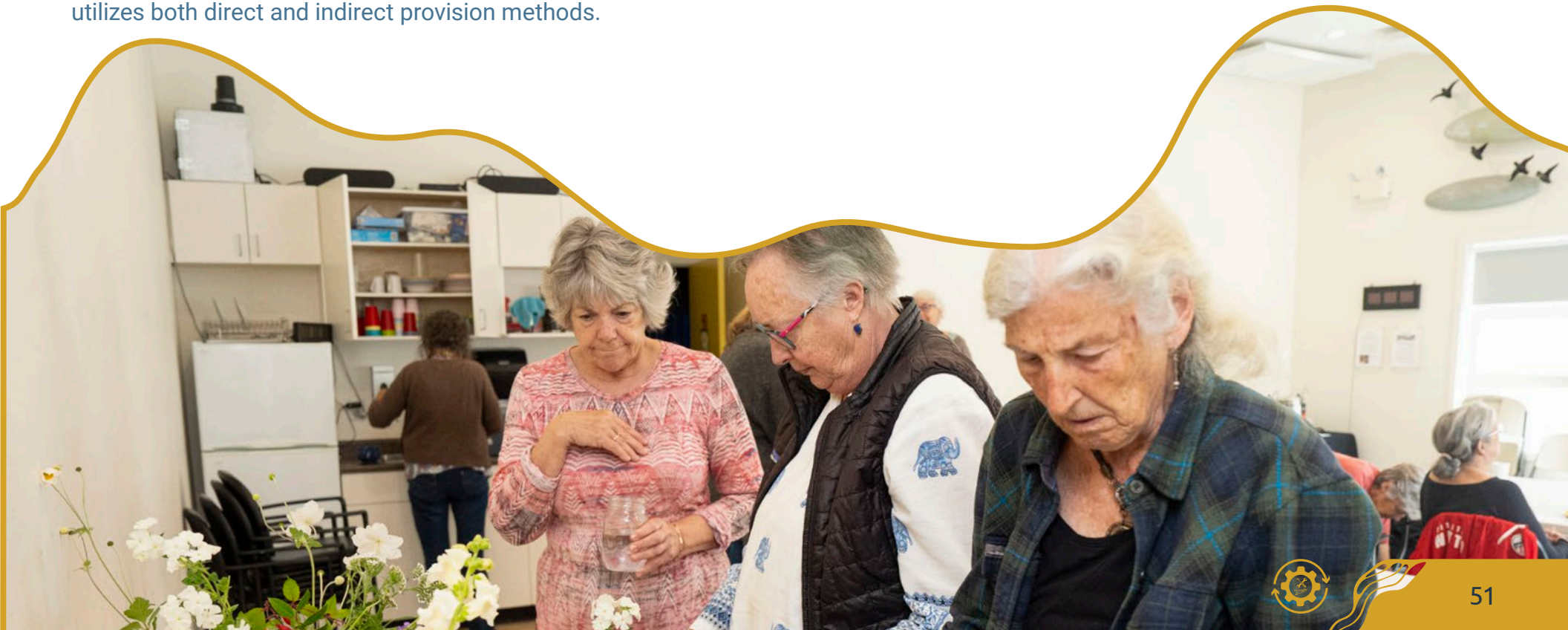
3.2.1. Utilize a combination of direct, indirect, and partnership-based approaches to deliver programming.

The engagement indicated that satisfaction levels with recreation and related programming are relatively strong. The engagement also suggests unmet demand exists for youth and adult recreation and sport programming. While these findings reflect opportunities to optimize program delivery, they are likely more indicative of space challenges and limitations.

Like most smaller communities, the delivery of recreation programming includes a mix of direct delivery (municipally provided) and indirect delivery (community organization provided with support from the municipality through the provision of grants, subsidized space, etc.). To optimize and expand existing programming in the community within available resources (financial, staff, and space), it will be critical for the District to continue delivery programming in a collaborative manner that utilizes both direct and indirect provision methods.

Resident Survey – Key Findings

- 55% of survey respondents indicated a level of satisfaction with the quality of programming (32% were 'unsure' and 13% were dissatisfied).
- 46% of survey respondents indicated a level of satisfaction with the variety of programming available (30% were 'unsure' and 25% were dissatisfied).
- Notably, levels of dissatisfaction were higher amongst households with children compared to households



Action A: *Support community organizations through granting programs.*

The District offers three grant streams to support events, arts, culture, heritage and community service based programming. Between 2021 and 2023 the District has increased grant funding reflecting Council's recognition of the need, benefits, and positive outcomes emanating from these programs.

It is recommended that the District:

- Support community organizations through existing grant programs and ensure successes and outcomes are reported back to the community.
- Review the granting programs every 3-5 years.

Grant Support by the District – By the

- $74,025 distributed in 2024 through the three granting programs (22 organizations supported).
- $37,200 distributed in 2024 through RMI funds (14 event based organizations).

Grant Funding Sources:

Arts, Culture and Heritage Grants and Council Grants are funded through taxation. These programs are directed towards programs that show benefit to the community and residents.

RMI Event Support Grants are funded through the Resort Municipality Initiative (RMI) program administered by the District. These funds have limitations and are directed at event hosting that generates visitation and spending in Tofino.

Implementation Timing and Requirements

Timing	Potential Capital Cost Impacts	Potential Operating Cost Impacts	Planning Resources Required
Ongoing	N/A	TBD (as per District 5 Year Financial Planning process)	N/A

Action B: *Use the program evaluation tool to inform programming decisions.*

The District continuously makes decisions on programming, including:

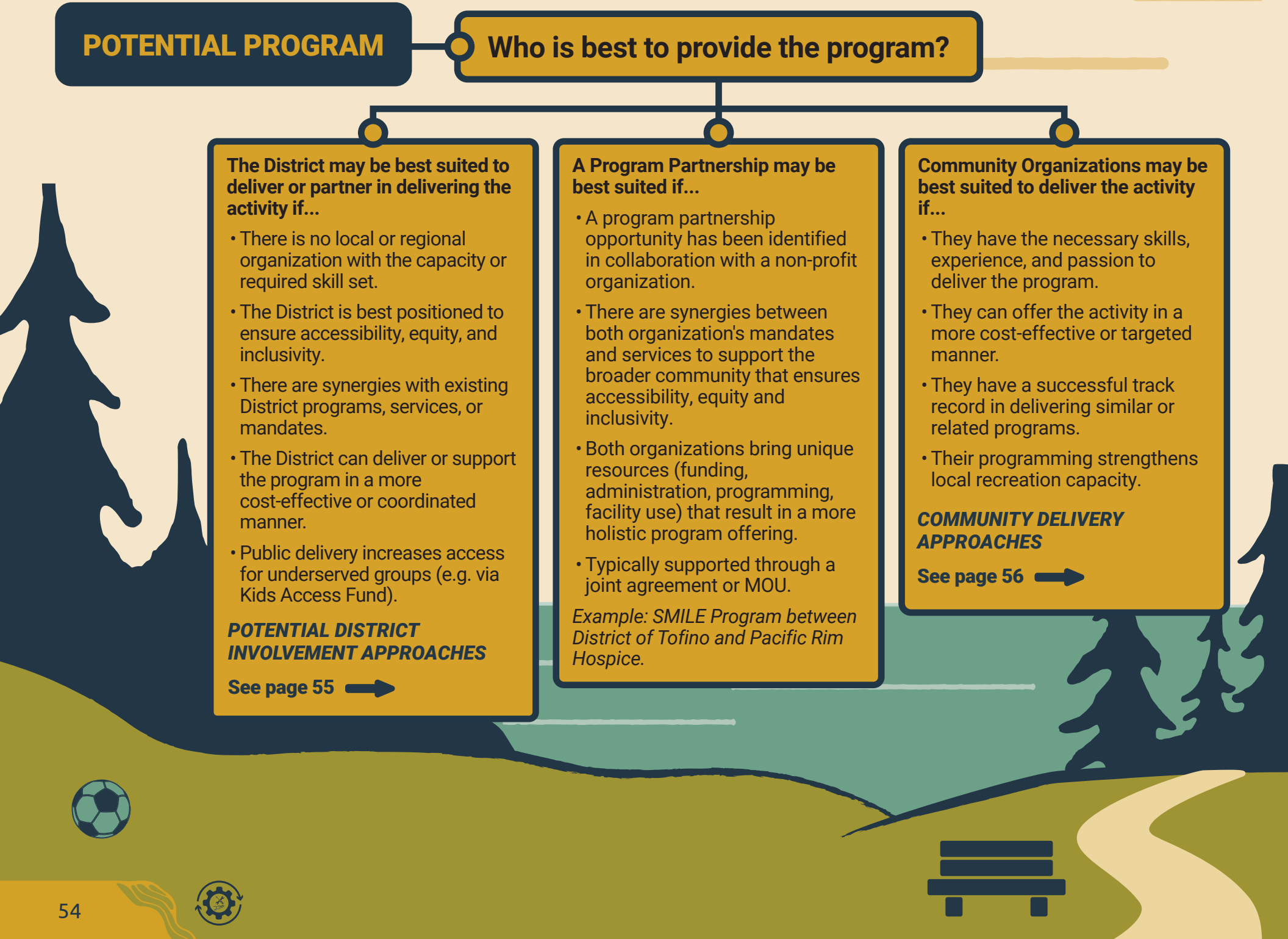
- Whether a program should be offered based on service mandate alignment, resourcing, and outcomes; and
- Which approach is best to delivery the program – directly by District staff / contractors or indirectly through community partners or the provision of space to a group.

Figure 11 on the following page provides a tool that can support analysis and decision making on programming. The tool can be applied to both potential and existing programs (e.g. to re-evaluate the best approach for providing that opportunity or potential retirement of a program). This tool can also be adapted to support the review and analysis of different aspects of programming as required.

Implementation Timing and Requirements			
Timing	**Potential Capital Cost Impacts**	**Potential Operating Cost Impacts**	**Planning Resources Required**
Ongoing	N/A	N/A	N/A



Figure 10. Program Delivery Evaluation Tool



POTENTIAL DISTRICT INVOLVEMENT APPROACHES

District Staff or Volunteer-Led Program

- There is clear community demand or strategic value for a specific activity.
- District staff or trained volunteers have the capacity and expertise to lead.
- The program aligns with seasonal priorities, strategic goals, or community-building efforts.

Examples: Youth Night, Family Free Time, Community Song Circle

Contractor Revenue Share Partnership with District Owned Facility/Space

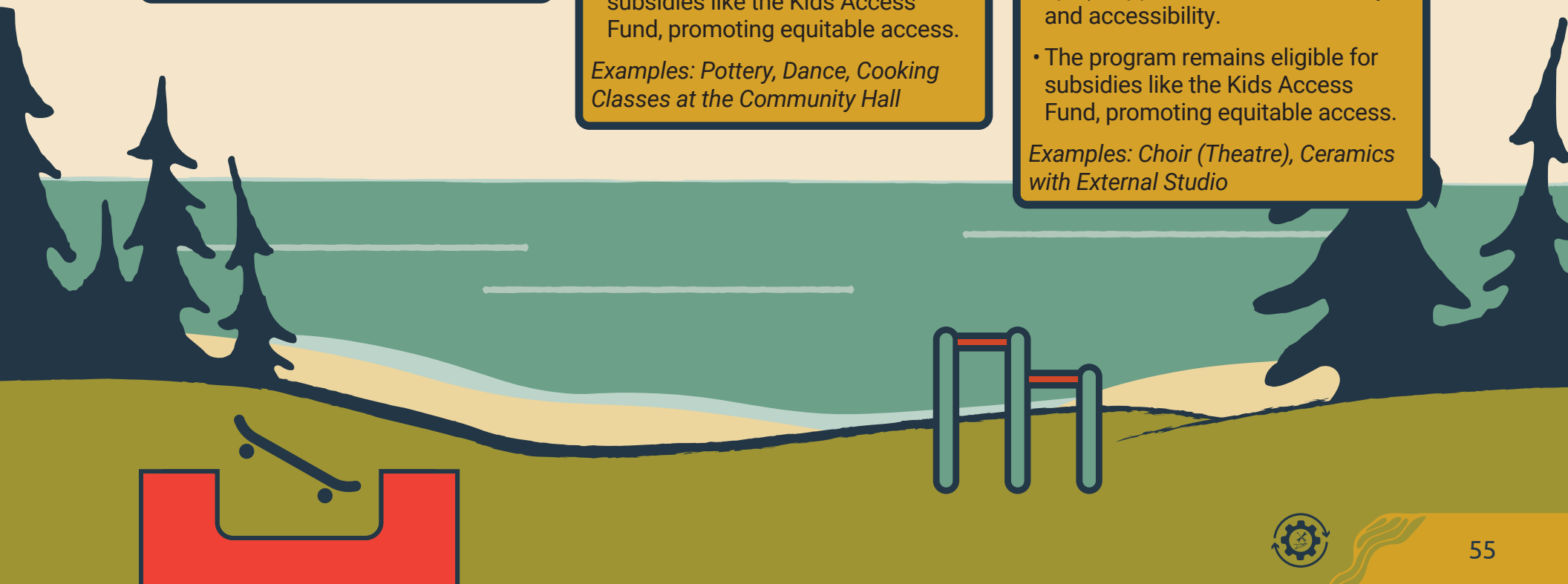
- A community member or specialist is passionate and has a unique skill set to offer.
- The District provides program administration (e.g. registration, promotion) and access to facilities.
- A revenue-share model (e.g. 80/20 split) supports both sustainability and accessibility.
- The program remains eligible for subsidies like the Kids Access Fund, promoting equitable access.

Examples: Pottery, Dance, Cooking Classes at the Community Hall

Contractor Revenue Share Partnership with External Organizations with Use of their Facility/Space

- The instructor or provider has access to their own facility/studio that meets bylaw zoning and insurance requirements (e.g. studio, dojo).
- The District offers administrative support (registration, payment) and marketing.
- A revenue-share model (e.g. 90/10 split) supports both sustainability and accessibility.
- The program remains eligible for subsidies like the Kids Access Fund, promoting equitable access.

Examples: Choir (Theatre), Ceramics with External Studio



COMMUNITY DELIVERY APPROACHES

Not for Profit Organizations Supported Through District of Tofino Grant Programs

- Offers programs aligns with District goals but need financial or in-kind support to be viable (e.g., to serve an equity-deserving group or test a new idea).
- The group may receive financial support, in-kind use of District facilities, or other in-kind contributions such as access to the shared event resources.
- The organization retains responsibility for program delivery but will report back on outcomes or impact to Council.

Examples: West Coast Triple Plank, Tuff City Skate Comp

Facility Rental User

- An individual or group seeks to use a District facility for their own program or event.
- Full responsibility for program coordination, staffing, registration, and risk management.
- They must provide proof of insurance and adhere to all District bylaws and facility policies.

Commercial or Private Enterprise or Organization

- The provider holds a valid business license and appropriate insurance coverage.
- They have access to their own facility or suitable space and administrative tools and do not require program administration.
- They manage all aspects of program delivery, including scheduling, registration, and promotion.
- They have autonomy to tailor the program to their audience or clientele.
- Mandate extends beyond community access as a priority.
- Not eligible for subsidies like the Kids Access Fund

Examples: Yoga studio offering classes, kayak company offerings tours/lessons, surf lessons offered by a Surf School

Action C: *Collaborate with Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation to identify joint programming opportunities.*

Tla-o-qui-aht and Tofino are each positioned to know what's best for each of their respective communities. The District should continue to collaborate with Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation staff to identify opportunities for programs and resource sharing and be open to open to stepping into recreational recreational opportunities when identified by Tla-o-qui-aht.

Opportunities may include:

- Sharing instructors and program staff.
- Promoting programming and other recreation and cultural opportunities.
- Initiatives to reduce barriers to participation by going out into community when invited.

Implementation Timing and Requirements

Timing	Potential Capital Cost Impacts	Potential Operating Cost Impacts	Planning Resources Required
Ongoing	N/A	$ (may require some additional resourcing for programming and related costs)	N/A



3.2.2. Identify and support aquatics experiences and opportunities.

Actions presented under Goal #1 outline a path forward to assess the viability of the District providing access to aquatics infrastructure.

However, regardless of whether a pool project is pursued locally or regionally, it is unlikely that this infrastructure will be developed in the near term. Alternative options for expanding access to aquatics programming and experienced will need to be pursued in the meantime.

Action A: *Explore external partnerships to provide aquatics education, skill development and access.*

Limited hotels and resorts in Tofino and Ucluelet maintain private aquatics infrastructure that has been accessed in the past on a limited basis for swim lessons.

Opportunities to partner with accommodation providers on a longer term, structured basis should continue to be pursued to offer programming such as regular swim lessons

Implementation Timing and Requirements			
Timing	**Potential Capital Cost Impacts**	**Potential Operating Cost Impacts**	**Planning Resources Required**
Short Term / Ongoing	N/A	$	N/A



Action B: *Develop ocean-based swimming lessons and programming .*

The importance of residents learning necessary water education and skills sets to safely engage in ocean-based activities is among the core rationale for providing aquatics services in Tofino. Investigating opportunities to provide permanent, ongoing ocean-based swim lessons and related programming can help achieve increased safety and skill development.

Although not insurmountable, challenges exist with ocean-based programming requiring further exploration and consideration. These challenges include:

- Identifying and supporting qualified instructors.
- Weather and ocean unpredictability.
- Access to sufficient and proper equipment.

Implementation Timing and Requirements			
Timing	**Potential Capital Cost Impacts**	**Potential Operating Cost Impacts**	**Planning Resources Required**
Short Term	N/A	$	N/A

Action C: *Assess the viability of providing aquatics opportunities in Port Alberni.*

The Echo Aquatics Centre in Port Alberni is the closest indoor public pool to Tofino, located approximately 130 km from the community. The travel distance and conditions present barriers for Tofino residents in regularly accessing this facility. However, the District should engage with the District of Ucluelet, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, and local First Nations to explore demand and the viability of creating a weekly shuttle service to the pool in Port Alberni.

If a shuttle service is deemed viable, the partners should approach the Echo Aquatics Centre operator (City of Port Alberni) to discuss programming options to maximize time spent at the pool during these visits (e.g. expanded swim lesson times so that a session of swim lessons can be delivered in just 2 or 3 trips).

Implementation Timing and Requirements			
Timing	**Potential Capital Cost Impacts**	**Potential Operating Cost Impacts**	**Planning Resources Required**
Short Term	N/A	$	N/A

3.2.3. Expand overall programming capacity in the community.

The District supports and provides a wide array of programming types. Like most municipal providers of recreation programming, the District generally steps in to directly provide programming when one or more of the following conditions exist:

- There is not a local organization with the capacity or skills to offer the program.
- The District can ensure needed programming is available to all ages and socio-economic demographics.
- The District can ensure safe and quality provision of the program.

The District should continue to:

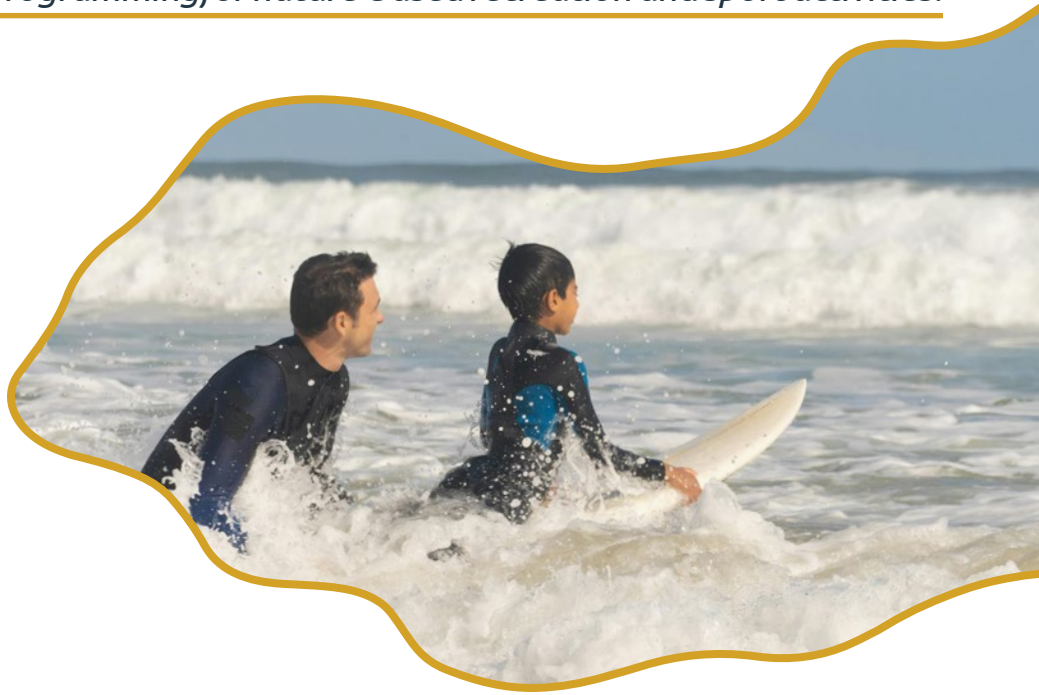
- meet programming gaps based on the above conditions with a focus on continuing to build more introductory and skill development-based programming. A focus on this area of programming will help build interest and skills, supporting individuals to pursue more advanced opportunities (programming or individual pursuit).
- play a leadership role in building community capacity amongst groups and organizations that offer programming. These efforts will help build a sustainable recreation programming system.



Action A: *Work with local organizations to offer introductory programming for nature-based recreation and sport activities.*

Nature-based recreation is foundational to the culture and lifestyle of Tofino. While some residents come to the community with the skill sets to enjoy these activities, or have the resources to acquire them, others do not. Working with local groups and enthusiasts to offer introductory programming for activities like surfing, paddling, biking and skateboarding provides numerous benefits and opportunities, including:

- Fostering safety through education and skill development.
- Supporting future advanced participation in existing groups and organizations.
- Creating future volunteers that can support event hosting and program instruction.
- Building consumers of local businesses that support these activities.



Implementation Timing and Requirements			
Timing	**Potential Capital Cost Impacts**	**Potential Operating Cost Impacts**	**Planning Resources Required**
Ongoing	N/A	N/A	N/A

Action B: *Increase efforts to support volunteer capacity development for sports and recreation.*

The engagement identifies that residents would like to see expanded programming opportunities, especially pertaining to youth and adult recreational sport. As in most communities, sports teams and leagues are most sustainable when there are strong volunteer based organizations to run them.

The District should focus on playing an increased role in helping to build up the capacity of these organizations using the following tactics.

- Identifying and supporting volunteer leaders.
- Promoting volunteer opportunities (board, coaching, officiating, etc.).
- Providing boards and volunteers with training and support using existing District expertise (e.g. budgeting, grant writing, communications, etc.).
- Supporting registration and money collection.
- Providing grants to support equipment purchase and travel outside the community for clinics and training.

Key Findings from the Engagement

- 25% of Resident Survey respondents would like to see a greater variety of programming.
- Organized sports teams, leagues, and clubs was the most desired type of programming for adults (19-39 years) (22%) and youth (21%) among Resident Survey respondents.

In addition to these capacity building roles, the District should continue to support recreational sport organizations by providing low-cost access to these spaces.

Implementation Timing and Requirements

Timing	Potential Capital Cost Impacts	Potential Operating Cost Impacts	Planning Resources Required
Ongoing	N/A	N/A	N/A

Action C: *Work regionally to facilitate critical mass for sports teams and leagues.*

A prevalent challenge for organizations that provide sport and recreation programming in smaller communities is a lack of critical participant mass, especially among children and youth age groups that require more age segmentation (e.g. 2 year age groupings).

The District should continue to work with the District of Ucluelet and First Nations in the region to generate interest in sports and recreational programming and, where possible, avoid duplication of programming and create synergies that ultimately enable programs to flourish.

Implementation Timing and Requirements			
Timing	**Potential Capital Cost Impacts**	**Potential Operating Cost Impacts**	**Planning Resources Required**
Ongoing	N/A	N/A	N/A



Action D: *Advocate and support efforts to reduce barriers to participation.*

The District's Kids Access Fund was establish in early 2010 and continues to reduce barriers to participation for families in the region. The program has seen a steady increase in use over the years and will require continued funding from the District of Tofino to ensure program continuation.

The District should also consider other ways to reduce barriers to participation through:

- Offering a support worker for children and young people with support needs funded through the Kids Access Fund.
- Inclusionary language and accommodations built into programming descriptions, administration processes and instruction where applicable.
- Training for instructors, volunteers and staff to support a wider diversity of participants and accommodations to offer recreation for all.

The District should additionally continue to monitor the success of supports available and collaborate with local and regional service agencies to identify barriers and ways to mitigate them on an ongoing basis. Monitoring tactics should include:

- Ongoing dialogue between District, school, and social service agency staff.
- Exploring barriers and factors that impact participation through future engagement initiative.
- Identifying new and innovative ways to provide low barrier opportunities.
- Placing an emphasis on accessibility as new facility planning is undertaken.

Implementation Timing and Requirements

Timing	Potential Capital Cost Impacts	Potential Operating Cost Impacts	Planning Resources Required
Ongoing	N/A	$	N/A

3.2.4. Support events, arts, culture and heritage.

Recreation and culture services achieve the most benefits and success when they complement each other in a community. The relationship between recreation, arts and culture is also co-dependent, with a necessity to share spaces, resources, and the need to achieve similar overall outcomes of creating engaged communities, identity, and driving visitation. Recognizing this synergistic relationship, the Master Plan encompasses actions to support arts and culture in Tofino.

The 2014-2024 Arts and Culture Master Plan and 2013 Heritage Master Plan have provided sound guidance on arts and culture services, priorities, and focus area over the past decade. The District's Official Community Plan additionally acknowledges the need to support the arts and culture sector in Tofino and identifies several policy statements for arts and culture (OCP 4.6.2., Policies 24 – 23):

- Ensure that Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations artists are involved in the development of public art.
- Support a public realm that incorporates the skills of local and regional artists in the design of public works projects, streets, and places.
- Ensure that Tla-o-qui-aht place names and translations are prominently displayed on District signage.
- Ignore the unplanned use of spaces that occur naturally and continue to allow the space for arts and culture to flourish within it.
- Encourage opportunities for artists to participate in the development of public spaces.

The District should continue to advance the above policy statements from the OCP and undertake other targeted actions to support arts and culture in the community.



Photo: Kara Vogler

Action A: *Review and update Public Art policy to address new funding mechanisms and expanded integration into public spaces.*

The District of Tofino Point of View Public Art Policy was accepted by Council in 2014 providing an important reference point to advance public art in the community. As the Policy is now over a decade old, a review is recommended to update the roadmap for public art in Tofino.

More specifically, a review of the Policy should include:

- Identification of opportunities with clear guidelines and parameters to foster integration of public art installations and features into parks and trails (e.g. connected commissioned pieces to wayfinding and marker signage along trails, installations at key points of interest, etc.).
- A public art funding mechanism, such as a dedication requirement for future public realm capital projects (e.g. a percentage allocation requirement for public art installations as part of the project or improvements to adjacent areas).

Implementation Timing and Requirements			
Timing	**Potential Capital Cost Impacts**	**Potential Operating Cost Impacts**	**Planning Resources Required**
Short Term	N/A	N/A	$ ($25,000 - $50,000) (subject matter expertise / consultant)

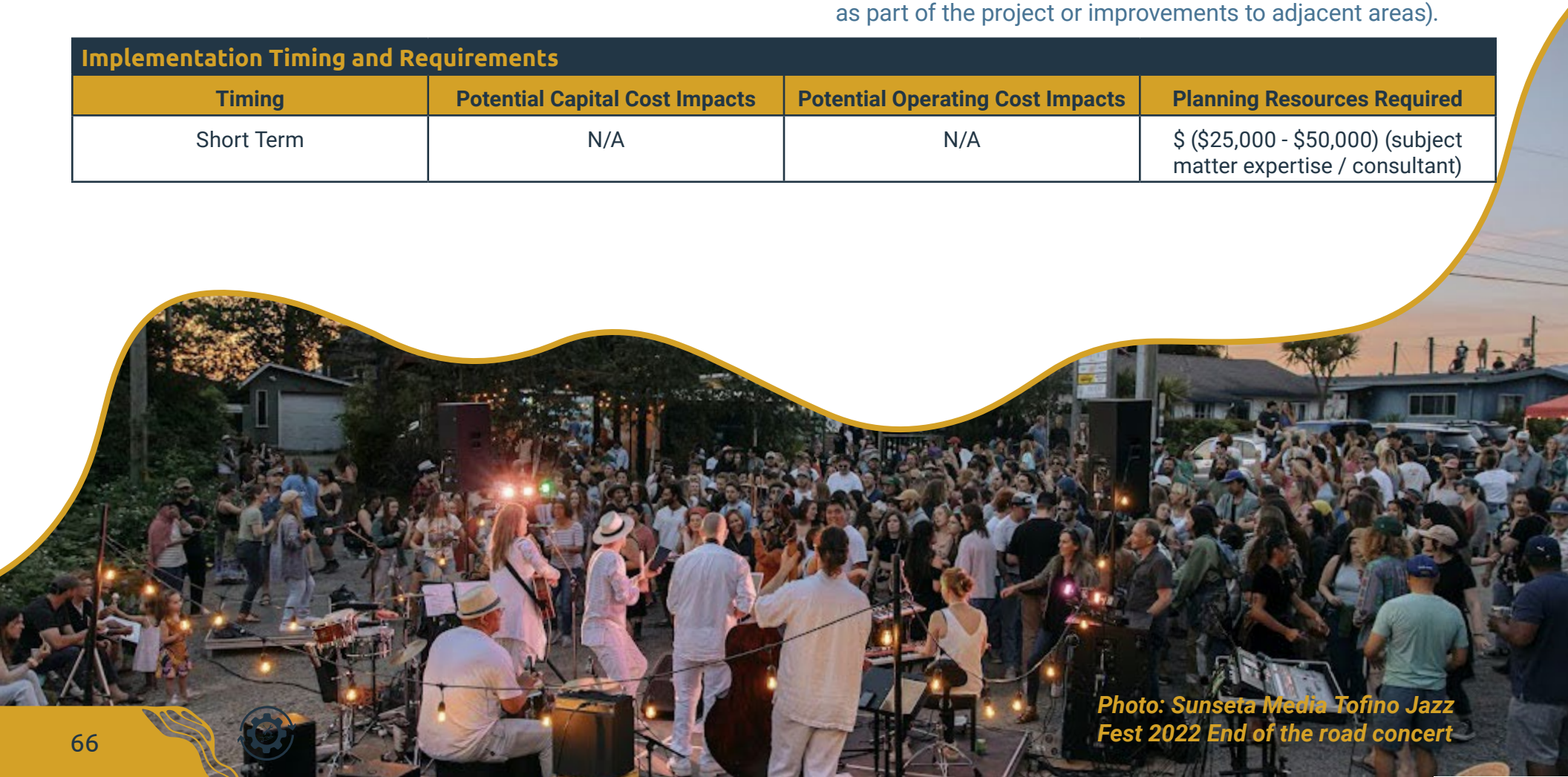


Photo: Sunseta Media Tofino Jazz Fest 2022 End of the road concert

Action B: *Support and partner with arts and culture organizations.*

Arts and culture are important and valued in Tofino, adding to the community's character and sense of identity, generating significant economic activity, and fostering creativity and connectedness among residents. The District should continue to directly provide programming where unmet needs and gaps exist but focus on expanded collaboration with existing arts and culture organizations that are better able to address arts and culture gaps. Areas included expand introductory and 'learn to' streams of programming across different visual and performing arts.

The district is well positioned to continue playing a connector and conveyor role, supporting the work of organizations like the Tofino Arts Council or Clayoquot Sound Community Theatre Association while broadening connections to other organizations internal and external to the arts such as organizations like Parks Canada to formalize future program collaboration opportunities or Tofino Legion to access additional programming space.

Implementation Timing and Requirements			
Timing	**Potential Capital Cost Impacts**	**Potential Operating Cost Impacts**	**Planning Resources Required**
Ongoing	N/A	$ (could included external rental costs)	N/A

Action C: *Support grant applications to senior levels of government and other external sources of funding for strategic programs and infrastructure.*

The District should continue to support grant applications from non-profit community organizations and partners that align with the values and policy statements included in the Official Community Plan and other District Plans to support the provision of arts, culture, recreation and event opportunities and infrastructure.

Support can occur through letters of support and Council motions acknowledging the value and benefits of a project.

Implementation Timing and Requirements			
Timing	**Potential Capital Cost Impacts**	**Potential Operating Cost Impacts**	**Planning Resources Required**
Ongoing	N/A	N/A	N/A

Action D: *Ensure District event support aligns with core values as identified in District of Tofino plans.*

Event hosting in Tofino is a collaborative effort by community organizations, the tourism and hospitality sectors, other private businesses, and the District. Event hosting in Tofino has been guided by the Tofino Event Strategy (2015-2019), Resort Development Strategy (2025-2027), and other plans and reports that touch upon aspects of event hosting. Impact assessment data provided by Tourism Tofino's 2025 Economic Impact study provides key insights into how event hosting can support and complement broader tourism and destination initiatives.

The District supports event hosting in several ways, including management of event support funds from the Resort Municipality Initiatives (RMI). RMI funding is collected and allocated towards infrastructure and services that serve visitors and broaden the visitor experience. It's use has been integral to building event support over the years.

Events provide opportunities for social gathering and connection, foster volunteer capacity, and build community identify and pride. The District should continue to:

- Support events through event monitoring, shared event resource supplies and in-kind facility use via the District of Tofino grant programs.
- Lead and collaborate on event safety and emergency planning with event organizers.

Implementation Timing and Requirements

Timing	Potential Capital Cost Impacts	Potential Operating Cost Impacts	Planning Resources Required
Ongoing	N/A	N/A	N/A

3.2. Goal #3 Optimize Land Resources

Table 9: Summary of the Strategies and Actions

Strategy	Actions
3.3.1. Use parks and trails as a mechanism to achieve land-based conversation.	A. Advance park and trail development with consideration of 30 x 30 conservation objectives. B. Prioritize sustainable design, construction, and management practices throughout the parks system.
3.3.2. Acquire land for recreation-based uses.	A. Support the exploration of a land trust. B. Ensure parks are included in future development cost charge (DCC) and amenity cost charge (ACC) bylaws. C. Include parks in future real estate strategy.

3.3.1. Use parks and trails to advance conversation objectives.

Parks and trails designations are a critical mechanism to conserve and protective sensitive ecosystems and habitats. In the context of Tofino, riparian zones, older forests, wetlands, and wetland/ forest complexes are critical for maintaining ecosystem services such as water filtration, flood mitigation, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity support. Acquiring, formalizing, and responsibility managing parkland protects lands and waters for the future while also providing suitable space for recreation – directing human activity away from areas that are less suitable for it.

The District's OCP provides policy guidance on how parks can support preserving the natural environment and restoring degraded natural processes. Identified below are selected relevant Policy Statements from the OCP (Section 4.3.2.).

- Partner with First Nations, land owners, higher levels of governments, and community groups in the protection of natural parks, wild green spaces, and contiguous natural corridors.
- Pursue and support the dedication of large ecologically intact parcels of park land adjacent existing forest, ocean, beaches, and sensitive foreshore areas.
- Prioritize the retention of contiguous parcels of undisturbed natural land over narrow vegetated "leave" strips to minimize habitat fragmentation.
- Link sensitive ecosystems, such as aquatic habitats, to parks, greenways, or other natural areas wherever possible to minimize habitat fragmentation.
- Restore the habitats, hydrologic pathways and connectivity that sustain biodiversity, including green spaces, sensitive ecosystems and species and ecosystems at risk.
- Ensure that development of adjacent Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District lands supports the visual and ecological goals of Tofino.
- Preserve and enhance environmentally sensitive areas to protect biodiversity and corresponding measures of ecosystem functioning.
- Limit public access points to sensitive ecosystems so as not to compromise habitat and ecological functions of these areas.
- Ensure the integration of environmental features and natural areas in new developments.
- Identify and designate environmentally sensitive areas prior to development to minimize disturbance from human activities and growth.
- Initiate a conversation with the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation about natural capital assets and eco-system fees to ensure long term protection of watersheds.
- Work with land owners and community groups to ensure that that all streams and riparian areas are protected, maintained, and rehabilitated to preserve travel corridors for large carnivores.
- Support mapping, protection, and restoration for all riparian and wetland areas within the District including the area between the streams that flow from east of North Chesterman Beach to the Mudflats, the upland area between each of the adjacent streams inland from Cox Bay, the area between the headwaters of streams that flow to the exposed outer coast & beaches north of Mackenzie Beach Road.
- Consider the development of tree protection regulations.
- Pursue and support the dedication of large ecologically intact parcels of parkland adjacent the ocean.
- Limit future development adjacent the provincially designated Wildlife Management Area to minimize negative impacts to the foreshore areas, natural vegetation, and natural water courses, water bodies and wetlands.

While some benchmarks exist to assess municipal park supply (e.g. hectares per capita), the unique geographic context of Tofino and proximity to the Pacific Rim National Park Reserve makes these benchmarks less applicable to the Tofino context. Instead, park acquisition and management in Tofino should focus on advancing the OCP direction, alignment with Tofino's targets to meet the global 30 x 30 mandate, and continuing to build a parks and trails network that advances conservation objectives with supporting recreational use.

Best Practice Example

The Capital Regional District (CRD) identifies "Protect the Natural Environment" as one of the five core objectives in its **Regional Parks Land Acquisition Strategy**. Criteria used to evaluate potential land acquisition sites integrates a mix of criteria aimed at vetting recreational use potential and the ecological value of acquiring and designating the site as a regional park or trail.



Action A: *Advance conservation objectives through the lens of 30 x 30.*

The global "**30×30" biodiversity target**, adopted at COP15 under the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, commits Canada to conserve **30% of its land and water by 2030**. Through the **Pan-Canadian Standard on Protected and Conserved Areas**, this target emphasizes ecological integrity, connectivity, climate resilience, and Indigenous leadership in conservation.

Municipal contributions to national conservation goals are increasingly recognized. The report Municipal Contributions to Canada's Protected Areas Target: A Review of Wise Practices in Ontario highlights how municipalities can support the 30×30 target by integrating biodiversity into local planning frameworks and recognizing municipally managed lands—such as parks, natural heritage systems, and conservation areas—as contributors to protected area networks (Ontario Nature, n.d.). To qualify within the 30 x 30 targets, municipal lands must meet four criteria:

Clearly defined boundaries – mapped and legally recognized.

1. **Effective controls on harmful activities** – restrictions to prevent biodiversity loss.
2. **Long-term, year-round protection** – durable measures that are difficult to reverse.
3. **Management for conservation outcomes** – active stewardship, monitoring, or restoration.

Tofino's Official Community Plan (2021) reflects many principles of the 30×30 target. It prioritizes the protection of beaches, forests, riparian zones, and sensitive ecosystems; promotes ecological connectivity through habitat corridors and watershed stewardship; and advances climate resilience through emissions targets and adaptation planning. The OCP also references Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks and commits to reconciliation and shared stewardship.

The District should continue to use the 30 x 30 Targets as a basis for conservation and preservation efforts. Supported by the content contained within the 2025 District of Tofino Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) Report, enclosed are several recommendations for achieving conservation objectives:

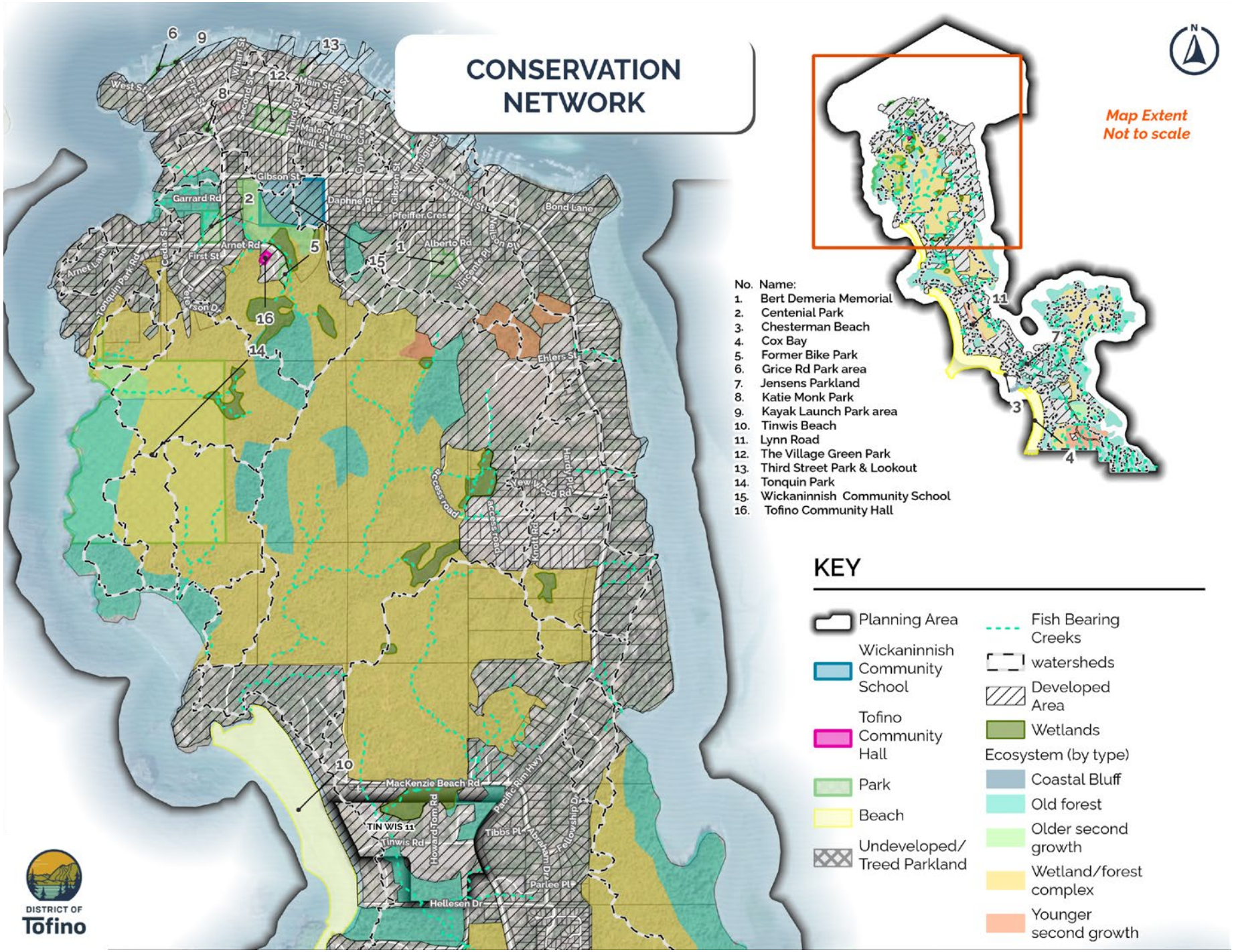
- Refine the series of conservation-based development permit areas to be included in the zoning bylaw: Integrate environmentally sensitive areas, including wetland, wildlife corridor, and notable tree data into GIS.
- Enhance conservation zoning within the zoning bylaw to guide recreation suitability: Define zones for protection, limited use, and active recreation based on ecological sensitivity.
- Incorporate Indigenous knowledge: Collaborate with the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge and stewardship practices in both planning and development within the District.
- Implement monitoring protocols: Use the ESA report's baseline data to track ecosystem health and guide adaptive management of the assets.

Educate and involve the public: Promote awareness of sensitive ecosystems through strategic partnerships, signage, programming, and citizen science initiatives.

Implementation Timing and Requirements			
Timing	**Potential Capital Cost Impacts**	**Potential Operating Cost Impacts**	**Planning Resources Required**
Ongoing	N/A (lands acquired and managed as part of broader District land use and sustainability planning)	N/A	N/A



Figure 11. Current Conservation Network in Tofino



Action B: *Prioritize sustainable design and management practices within the park system.*

The District's OCP touches on several key sustainable design and management practices, including those aimed at protecting wildlife as well as watersheds, foreshores, and forests that are in or adjacent to parkland. Building on the OCP direction, identified below are several recommended tactics to integrate sustainable design and management practices into the parks system.

- Prioritize use of natural barriers and, where required, include gates and fencing to keep individuals out of highly sensitive ecosystems such as riparian and wetland areas, nesting areas, and areas with at-risk tree stands.
- Outfit parks with appropriate support amenities, including bear-proof garbage bins, washrooms (in higher use parks), and signage to direct appropriate use.
- Within larger parks and trail networks, ensure wildlife corridors are identified and protected.
- On beaches where campfires are a prevalent activity, clearly communicate the importance of ensuring that fire pits are placed and utilized according to beach fire regulations and emphasize fire risk and mitigation strategies through public communications.
- Avoid the use of pesticides and road salts in parks.
- For park amenities that require electricity, install solar panel systems wherever viable.
- Offer only biodegradable materials for managing waste (e.g. biodegradable dog waste bags, toiletries in washrooms, etc.).

Implementation Timing and Requirements			
Timing	**Potential Capital Cost Impacts**	**Potential Operating Cost Impacts**	**Planning Resources Required**
Ongoing	N/A	N/A	N/A

3.3.2. Acquire lands needed to support future recreation and parks needs.

To support future recreation and parks needs the District will need to acquire land via the development process, and/or the strategic purchase of land as it becomes available with reference to the location of existing District owned land. The following actions identify approaches and focus areas for future land acquisition and assembly.



Action A: *Support the exploration of a land-based trust.*

The 5% land dedication provision at subdivision and the means to acquire land through Development Cost Charges (DCC's) are important and necessary means to acquire land for park purposes. However, when it comes to land acquisition that works like nature does and effectively helps the District meet its 30 x 30 targets, protections for larger parcels need to be secured. Land trusts, the primary bodies active in acquiring private lands for conservation purposes in BC, can function to help bridge this gap and achieve land conservation through securement. Lands acquired by a trust would be held by them or transferred to the District as conservation parkland to help safeguard ecological and other values for the benefit of people and nature in perpetuity.

Fee simple acquisition and conservation covenants, or easements, are the two most common means to conserve private land. In either case, land securement is voluntary, so a land trust would function to prioritise and spend the time needed to develop the relationships and social capital required to effectively secure lands. A land trust in Tofino could function as a nonprofit arm of the District, modeled after the Tofino Housing Corporation. Likewise, it could also function throughout the broader Clayoquot Biosphere Region and be the role of an external nonprofit, Indigenous-led or otherwise.

Among other benefits, private land conservation helps to achieve the following:

- Safeguard culturally significant sites that support traditional practices such as hunting, fishing, and plant harvesting, recognizing their importance to Indigenous and local communities.
- Conserve vital natural areas, including wildlife habitats, ecosystems, and ecological corridors to support biodiversity and ecological health.
- Restore and compensate for past ecological losses, particularly in underrepresented landscapes such as riparian zones and wetland areas.
- Ensure long-term resilience and protect key ecological functions and values that are vulnerable to pressures from human development, climate change, and natural disturbances.

Implementation Timing and Requirements

Timing	Potential Capital Cost Impacts	Potential Operating Cost Impacts	Planning Resources Required
Short Term / Medium Term	TBD (requires further exploration)	TBD (requires further exploration)	TBD (resourcing to be identified through District budgeting processes)

Action B: *Ensure parks are included in future Development Cost Charges and Amenity Cost Charges bylaws.*

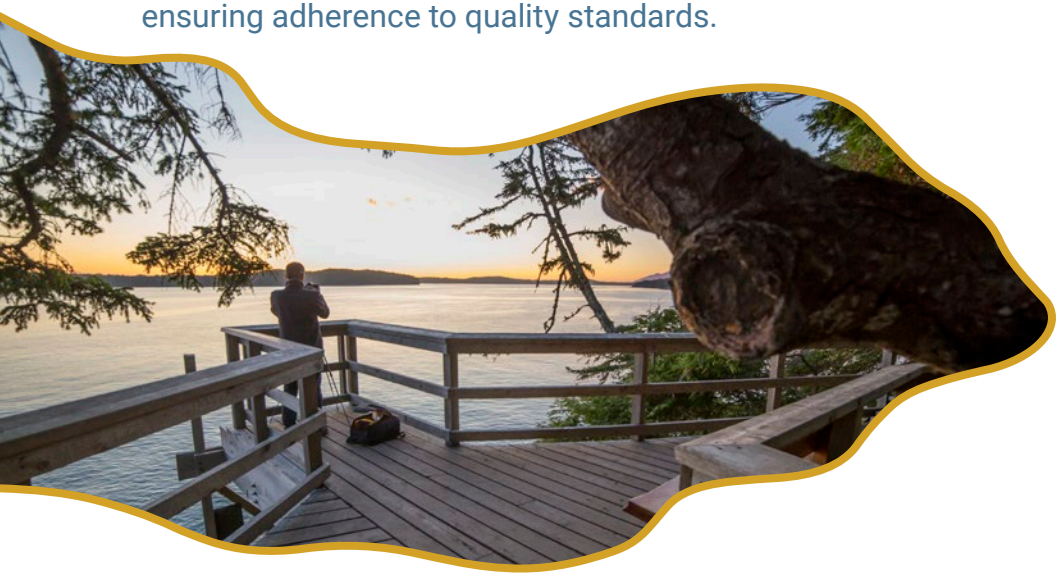
The District's Housing Needs Report (2021) and other planning undertaken by the District identifies the challenges associated with limited and increasingly expensive land supply in the community. The need to manage growth while responsibly increasing densification and affordable supply will be key priorities for the District over the next 10+ years and have an impact on demand and needs for outdoor recreation spaces and opportunities. As communities densify and dwellings have less private outdoor space on average (e.g. backyards), resident demand for quality outdoor public recreation and leisure space tends to increase. The increasing demand for community gardens identified through the engagement presents one potential indicator of the impacts of shifting housing stock in Tofino. As such, it will be important for the District to ensure a sufficient quantity and quality of park space is accrued through the development process to ensure park provision occurs in lockstep with growth.

Two mechanisms exist for municipalities in British Columbia to acquire parkland through the development process – the 5% land dedication at subdivision or Development Cost Charges (DCC's). The Province of British Columbia has recently (May 2025) published a Parkland Acquisition: Best Practices Guide to support local and regional governments with determining how to make the best use of both mechanisms. It recommended that the District utilize this resource to undertake an update of policies pertaining to land acquisition through the development process.



Identified below are general best practice guidelines pertaining to park acquisition that the District should follow when acquiring and establishing parkland through the development process:

- Acquire parkland with spatial attributes and characteristics that will support functional and quality park development.
- Consider cash-in-lieu when a neighbourhood or area of the community is already well served with park space, available parkland is not well suited for park development, or the cash provided helps achieve other strategic park acquisition purposes.
- If new park projects are developer designed and installed, the District should play an active role in approving design and ensuring adherence to quality standards.



The District's current Official Community Plan (OCP) provides additional guidance pertaining to development process. Pertinent policy direction included in the OCP (Section 4.6.2 and 6.1) includes:

- Ensure that future development provides accessible public access to District beaches.
- Require parkland acquired through subdivision to be adjacent beaches, the inlet, and the waterfront.
- Accept linear or strips of park land only where connection between areas of the community, greenways, or beach access is desired.
- Consider cleared land for parkland only if the proposed site fits into the District's long-term parks plan and recreation objectives.
- Ensure that parkland dedications which contain steep terrain, riparian areas, or low boggy ground will not be accepted unless the park is a designated environmentally sensitive area (ESA).
- Encourage developers to consider neighbourhood enhancement projects such as playgrounds or traffic calming as an opportunity to mitigate the impacts of development on local (neighbourhood) areas.
- Encourage voluntary amenity contributions to be proportional to the value being created for developers in the development approvals process.
- Maintain a consistent a nexus between amenity contributions and developments.

Implementation Timing and Requirements

Timing	Potential Capital Cost Impacts	Potential Operating Cost Impacts	Planning Resources Required
Ongoing	N/A	N/A	N/A (as per District planning)

Action C: *Include parks in a future real estate strategy.*

The actions identified under Goal 1 include the potential development of an aquatics facility and community centre. While these projects require further analysis and are unlikely to occur for several years, the District should prioritize assembling a parcel of land that could ideally accommodate both facilities and parks (likely through a phased approach) within a future real estate strategy.

As a point of reference for planning, a typical guideline for facility that encompasses a single gymnasium, small scale pool, and dry-floor multi-purpose program spaces is 20,000 square feet. Siting a facility of this size could require a land parcel between 0.5 – 3 hectares depending on existing service infrastructure, parking, set back requirements, and roadway access.

Implementation Timing and Requirements			
Timing	**Potential Capital Cost Impacts**	**Potential Operating Cost Impacts**	**Planning Resources Required**
Medium Term	N/A	N/A	TBD (to be determined as part of broader District planning and budgeting)

3.3.3. Manage the parks and trails inventory in a purposeful and strategic manner.

Managing the existing parks and trails system in a structured and strategic way supports effective use of land and ensures clarity on service levels (maintenance, amenity provision, etc.). Findings from the engagement suggest that levels of satisfaction with most aspects of park services is strong. The following action is intended to optimize these services and ensure that the system is prepared to meet evolving community needs over the next decade.

Action A: *Implement a new classification system for parks.*

Establishing a classification system for park assets provides a structure for management, and a point of reference for future investment. Internal and external clarity on service levels, amenity provision, and overall park specs supports the provision of great park experiences within available resources. Table 6 outlines a recommended new parks classification system in Tofino. This classification system should be revisited and built out over the next decade through related planning, including the washroom strategy recommended in Section 3.1.6 (Action C).



Table 10: Recommended Parks Classification System

**Some parks and trails fall into multiple classifications.*

Classification	Purpose	Attributes	Optimal Support Amenity Provision	Level of Maintenance Input	Future Planning Considerations	Level of Contribution Towards 30 x 30 Targets	Examples in the Current System
Destination	Serves the entire community, providing multiple park experiences. These parks also have some level of community event hosting capability and are signature spaces that contribute to identity and place-making.	• Variable size. • Strong connection to the active transport network. • Multiple activity spaces / facilities located in the park (courts, large playground, wheeled sports, etc.). • Amenities available to support events (e.g. covered areas, gathering spaces, open areas for tents, etc.).	• Accessible washrooms • Parking available on-site or adjacent roadways • Garbage bins • Benches • On-site power to support event use	High (Daily garbage pick-up, watering, site walk)	• Priority for public art installations. • Future playground renewal / replacement should focus on creating larger, destination level play experiences.	Low	Village Green Centennial Park The overall Tonquin Park and Trail Network have attributes of a destination park site
Sports Park	Sports field or ball diamond that receives regular booked use.	• Sport field / ball diamond surface and amenities (e.g. fencing, backstops, nets, etc.).	• Accessible washrooms on-site or in adjacent buildings • Parking available on-site or adjacent roadways. • Garbage bins • Benches	High during peak use season (mowing once per week), reduced during non-bookable seasons	• Priority for asset management (repairing surfacing, fixing fences and dugouts, etc.) to maximize condition and lifespan.	Low	Wickaninnish Community School Sports Field

Classification	Purpose	Attributes	Optimal Support Amenity Provision	Level of Maintenance Input	Future Planning Considerations	Level of Contribution Towards 30 x 30 Targets	Examples in the Current System
Neighbourhood	Typically serve surrounding residential area and accessed via active modes of transportation. These park types usually provide <3 types of amenities.	• 0.25 – 2 ha. • Connection to the pathways and trail system is optimal. • Basic amenity provision (may have any one or combination of a basic playground structure, community garden, small court, and benches or sitting areas for nature enjoyment).	• Garbage bins • Benches	Moderate (Weekly garbage pick-up and site walk, monthly mowing).	• Review of use and investment as identified through planning and/or neighbourhood driven initiates.	Low - Moderate	Bert Demeria Memorial Park Centennial Park
Staging Point / Access Area	These parks spaces and amenities primarily exist to support access to a major trail system or the ocean.	• Variable in size	• Parking • Washrooms • Wayfinding and educational signage	High (Daily garbage pick-up and site walk)	• Priority for monitoring traffic and changes in use. • Planning for these sites requires strong integration with future trails and conservation planning. • Future amenity addition or renewal should review current best practice.	Moderate - High	Tonquin Trail entrance Grice Park All beach accesses Tonquin Connector at Industrial Way Community Hall

Classification	Purpose	Attributes	Optimal Support Amenity Provision	Level of Maintenance Input	Future Planning Considerations	Level of Contribution Towards 30 x 30 Targets	Examples in the Current System
Conservation Areas	Land parcels designated for conservation; not to be considered for future development or active park use.	• Variable in size and context.	• N/A	Low (Naturalized area, monthly monitoring to identify issues such as invasive species, human disturbance, fire risk, etc.)	• Management planning as per OCP and other conservation focused District planning.	High	Monks Point
Undeveloped	Land parcels held for potential park or facility development.	• Lands with suitable characteristics for future development / public use.	• N/A	N/A	• Best uses to be determined through District planning as required.	N/A	See Figure 13 Chesterman Beach Estate area

Implementation Timing and Requirements			
Timing	**Potential Capital Cost Impacts**	**Potential Operating Cost Impacts**	**Planning Resources Required**
Ongoing	N/A	N/A	N/A

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