

# **YELLOWHEAD COUNTY**

## **PARKS & RECREATION SERVICE PROVISION FRAMEWORK**



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Parks & Recreation Department is in the business of planning, developing, implementing, and professionally managing the parks, campgrounds, streetscapes, programs, facilities, and leisure services established under the leadership of Yellowhead County Council, Administration, and the Yellowhead County Recreation Board.

The Service Provision Framework aims to provide a clear and focused model that outlines how parks and recreation services are planned, organized, supported, and implemented within the municipality. It provides structure for the effective and efficient delivery of these services to meet the needs and expectations of residents.

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## SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL

Parks & Recreation operates within the Community Services Department. The service area is responsible for the planning, design, programming, day-to-day maintenance, and overall management of Yellowhead County's parks, recreation facilities, community halls, sports fields, and trail operations.

Program delivery is accomplished through a wide variety of operational activities including park design; facility planning; aquatic programs; fitness programs; facilitation for and support of community events; campground operations; customer service and day-to-day maintenance of all the associated infrastructure.

The division has several key links and dependencies with other County service areas including Planning and Development, Agricultural Services, Family & Community Support Services, Facilities, and Fleet Maintenance and Infrastructure Staff.

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## DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

Parks & Recreation delivers services to residents through the following four business functions:

### **Facilities**

Yellowhead County provides people of all ages with safe, affordable, and accessible indoor recreation opportunities at several facilities that contribute to a healthy, active community. We offer many recreation facilities, including an outdoor swimming pool, hockey arena, curling rinks,

community halls, indoor play areas, meeting rooms, and social and banquet areas. These services are provided in locations such as Pembina Rec-Plex (Evansburg Arena), Wildwood Recreation Complex, Wildwood Community Hall, Green Grove Pool, Peers Multiplex, Marlboro Community Hall, Robb Multiplex, Brule Community Hall, and soon-to-open Cadomin Community Hall.

### **Parks, Fields, and Open Spaces**

Yellowhead County maintains and operates a diverse range of safe, accessible, and well-maintained parks, fields, playgrounds, and open spaces throughout the County to build healthy, active communities. Developed open spaces include parks, boulevards, playgrounds, outdoor rinks, sports fields (baseball, soccer), and trails.

### **Programs & Special Events**

Yellowhead County has established and is offering a range of recreational programs and event opportunities that encourage physical activity, personal growth, skill development, social inclusion, and mental well-being.

### **Community Development & Support**

Yellowhead County collaborates with community partners and community groups to promote the spirit of recreation by building effective partnerships and creating social inclusion throughout the County. We provide support to community organizations in their delivery of services, provide grants to organizations, and support their grant applications to other levels of government.

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## **PARKS & RECREATION SERVICE AREA PLANS**

### **PARKS**

The Parks service area is committed to supporting Yellowhead County Council’s priorities through the operation and maintenance of all parks, open spaces, sports fields, ball diamonds, playgrounds, outdoor rinks, cemeteries, green spaces, campgrounds, beaches, horticulture, and trails.

### **SERVICE DELIVERED**

#### **Outdoor Recreation Asset Operation and Maintenance**

Operate and maintain municipal sports fields, ball fields, outdoor rinks, and toboggan hills.

#### **Park & Campground Management**

Operate and maintain municipal parks, campgrounds, and beaches.

**Playground Maintenance**

Revitalize, inspect, and maintain County-owned playgrounds.

**Cemetery Management**

Maintain County-owned cemeteries.

**Horticulture Management**

Prepare and maintain shrub beds, flower beds, hanging baskets, and delivery of park and right-of-way grass maintenance.

The Parks division supports the recreational and leisure needs of Yellowhead County. Parkland, both maintained and natural, enhances the quality of life and the physical, mental, and psychological well-being of the individual and the community. Parks create opportunities for people to gather, interact, and socialize through active and passive leisure activities connecting themselves to their community, neighborhood, and municipality.

**RECREATION PROGRAMMING**

Recreation Programming is committed to supporting Yellowhead County Council's priorities through the delivery of a wide variety of structured and unstructured programming including aquatic services, indoor/outdoor recreation, youth development, community development, inclusion, and accessibility.

**SERVICE DELIVERED****Recreation Program Delivery**

Fosters healthy lifestyles and vibrant communities by encouraging lifelong participation in recreation activities. People of all ages and stages of life can begin and continue to participate through structured programming or spontaneous free-play activities.

**Youth Development**

Develops and delivers youth leadership opportunities, drop-ins, and special events.

**Community Development and Support**

Facilitates and supports the building of healthy and empowered individuals and communities that are better equipped and skilled to achieve their own recreation goals and projects.

## REGIONAL RECREATION SERVICES

Regional Recreation Services is committed to supporting Yellowhead County Council's priorities through the delivery of services designed to enhance and empower communities through civic events, programming initiatives, and regional recreation facility partnership support.

### SERVICE DELIVERED

#### **Community Partnerships**

Oversees alternate service delivery, specifically recreation programs, and services provided through agreements with community groups and board-run facilities. These include community partners that manage facilities under operational Memorandum of Agreements that service hamlets within Yellowhead County.

#### **Municipal Partnerships**

Cost-share agreements exist with our neighboring municipalities of Edson, Hinton, and Parkland County for recreation services providing a mutual benefit for all residents. Access to recreation is important to our residents and an important part of building healthy and active communities. We are all better when we work and plan together.

#### **Community Development and Support**

Implementation of programs, plans, and policies related to recreation, arts, and culture, including the administration of grants to support these sectors.

## RECREATION FACILITIES & COMMUNITY HALLS

Recreation facilities and community halls are a significant component of Yellowhead County's recreation program services delivery model. The majority of these facilities are overseen by volunteer community boards, which have control over their daily operations. The boards are governed by consistent operational agreements. These operational agreements have provisions in place to ensure effective stewardship of publicly owned assets in support of Yellowhead County's recreation outcomes. Additionally, Yellowhead County directly manages and operates one facility, taking on the responsibility for its day-to-day operations.

The ten (10) recreational facilities and community halls owned by Yellowhead County include Evansburg Arena, Wildwood Recreation Complex, Wildwood Community Hall, Green Grove Pool, Peers Multiplex, Peers Community Centre, Marlboro Community Hall, Robb Multiplex, Brule Community Hall, and Cadomin Community Hall.

Additionally, there are another fifteen (15) community halls that are owned and/or operated by non-profit societies and associations that provide a range of benefits and opportunities to their

respective communities. The County's current direction on community halls not located within a hamlet and/or owned by Yellowhead County, is to support their operations through the Recreation, Parks, and Culture grants policy and the associated grant funding streams. The County acknowledges the importance of these halls to their respective communities; however, the County will not assume ownership, control, or provide funding to replace these halls. Focused investment will remain on County-owned recreation facilities and community halls only.

## **SERVICE DELIVERED**

### **Community**

Our facilities are a key community hub with the goal of ensuring residents are involved and enjoy participating in a wide range of leisure, social, sport, and recreational opportunities that enhance civic pride and improve the overall health of our communities.

### **Recreation Programs**

Offer a variety of community, school, camp, and sports programs that appeal to a mix of interests, ages, and abilities.

### **Aquatics Programs**

Niton has an outdoor pool that operates from May to August. We offer a variety of recreational options for people of all ages. Members and the public can participate in public swimming, lane swimming, parent and tot swims, lessons, swimming certifications, and group classes such as aqua-fit.

### **Facility Rentals**

Associations, community groups, corporations, and individuals can rent space to suit their needs. Rental of various spaces includes meeting rooms, fitness studios, ice surfaces, multi-purpose rooms, and an outdoor pool.

### **Arena Programming**

Our facilities consist of 1 NHL-sized arena and 3 curling rinks. We cater to the Pembina Minor Hockey Association, figure skating, learn to skate, recreational public skating, adult hockey leagues, and multiple curling clubs.

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## BASE LEVEL OF SERVICE

Yellowhead County Council is dedicated to offering a base level of service within our hamlets, bringing numerous benefits to the community. By providing accessible and well-maintained facilities, we can enhance the overall quality of life and contribute to the physical, mental, and social well-being of our residents.

Recreation facilities and community halls serve as important gathering spaces for the community, fostering social interaction and community cohesion. Parks, playgrounds, ball diamonds, skating rinks, etc. provide a venue for residents to come together, engage in recreational activities, and build relationships with their neighbors. This sense of community and belonging contributes to a positive and supportive social environment.

The following facilities and services form the base level of service goals for our hamlets:

- One community hall
- One playground
- One outdoor rink
- One ball diamond
- One rectangular field
- One pumptrack

The municipality has the freedom to exceed the base level of service if it is in the best interest of residents or if there is user demand to justify it. Conversely, the municipality retains the right to modify or reduce the base level of service if the demand does not align with the amenity or it is not operationally viable.

## FACILITY OVERVIEW

There are ten facilities in Yellowhead County considered regional. These facilities are summarized in the chart below.

Facility	Operator	Current Funding Contributors	Amenity Spaces
Evansburg Arena	Pembina Agricultural and Recreation Society (PARS)	<p><b>Core Funders:</b></p> <p>Yellowhead County</p> <p>Parkland County</p> <p>PARS</p> <p><b>Other Contributors:</b></p> <p>Alberta Agriculture and Forestry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ice arena</li> <li>• Gymnasium</li> <li>• Fitness Centre</li> <li>• Concession/commercial kitchen</li> <li>• Indoor Play Space (through Successful Kids &amp; Families)</li> <li>• Multi-purpose room</li> </ul>
Wildwood Recreation Complex	Yellowhead County	<p><b>Core Funders:</b></p> <p>Yellowhead County</p> <p><b>Other Contributors:</b></p> <p>Wildwood &amp; District Curling Club</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curling rink (3 sheets) with lounge</li> <li>• Commercial kitchen</li> <li>• Indoor play space (through Successful Kids &amp; Families)</li> <li>• Multi-purpose room</li> </ul>
Wildwood Community Hall	Wildwood Community Association	<p><b>Core Funders:</b></p> <p>Yellowhead County</p> <p>Wildwood Community Association</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Banquet hall</li> <li>• Multi-purpose room</li> <li>• Senior's Centre</li> </ul>
Peers Multiplex	Peers Area Community Group	<p><b>Core Funders:</b></p> <p>Yellowhead County</p> <p>Peers Area Community Group</p> <p><b>Other Contributors:</b></p> <p>Alberta Agriculture and Forestry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curling rink (2 sheets) with lounge</li> <li>• Commercial kitchen</li> <li>• Multi-purpose room</li> <li>• Senior's games room</li> </ul>



Peers Community Centre	Peers Area Community Group	<b>Core Funders:</b> Yellowhead County  Peers Area Community Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-purpose rooms</li> <li>• Peers Playschool</li> </ul>
Green Grove Pool	Yellowhead County	<b>Core Funders:</b> Yellowhead County  Grande Yellowhead Public School Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outdoor pool</li> </ul>
Marlboro Community Hall	Mountainview Rec Society	<b>Core Funders:</b> Yellowhead County  Mountainview Rec Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community hall</li> <li>• Play room</li> </ul>
Robb Multiplex	Robb Recreation Association	<b>Core Funders:</b> Yellowhead County  Robb Recreation Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curling rink (2 sheets) with lounge</li> <li>• Commercial kitchen</li> <li>• Community hall</li> </ul>
Brule Community Hall	Brule Community Society	<b>Core Funders:</b> Yellowhead County  Brule Community Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community hall</li> <li>• Commercial kitchen</li> <li>• Multi-purpose room</li> </ul>
Cadomin Community Hall	Cadomin Community Society	<b>Core Funders:</b> Yellowhead County  Cadomin Community Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community hall</li> <li>• Commercial kitchen</li> <li>• Multi-purpose room</li> </ul>

In addition to the above-noted regional facilities, there are numerous other recreation spaces within Yellowhead County. The following chart summarizes the total inventory of recreation spaces in Yellowhead County (including those amenities listed in the previous chart of regional facilities). This chart only represents amenities located on Yellowhead County property and Yellowhead County leases.

Facility Type	Total Regional Count	Locations
<b>Outdoor</b>		
Ball Diamonds	10	Evansburg Arena (1) Gunner Rehn Park – Wildwood (2) McLeod Valley Grounds (2) Marlboro (2) Robb (1) Cadomin (1) Brule (1)
Rectangular Sports Fields (i.e. soccer)	2	Peers (1) Brule (1)
Playgrounds	15	Evansburg Wildwood x2 Niton Peers Marlboro Robb Cadomin Brule Bear Lake Campground Shining Bank Campground Shining Bank Day Use Area Miller’s Lake Day Use Area West Jerry Vanderwell Memorial Park Long Lake Campground
Pump Tracks	8	Evansburg Wildwood Niton Peers Marlboro Robb Brule Cadomin
Basketball Courts	8	Evansburg Wildwood Niton Peers

		Marlboro Robb Cadomin Brule
Skating Rinks	7	Wildwood Niton Peers Marlboro Robb Brule Bear Lake*
Fitness Equipment	2	Evansburg Niton
Aquatic Facilities	1	Green Grove Pool
<b>Indoor</b>		
Curling Facilities	3 Facilities (7 sheets)	Wildwood Recreation Complex (3 sheets) Peers Multiplex (2 sheets) Robb Multiplex (2 sheets)
Ice Arena	1 Facility (1 sheet)	Evansburg Arena
Multi-Purpose Program Facilities	9 (facilities with multi-purpose program rooms)	Evansburg Arena Wildwood Recreation Complex Wildwood Community Hall Peers Multiplex Peers Community Hall Marlboro Community Hall Robb Multiplex Brule Community Hall Cadomin Community Hall
Commercial Kitchen	6	Evansburg Arena Wildwood Recreation Complex Peers Multiplex Robb Multiplex Brule Community Hall Cadomin Community Hall
Gymnasium	1	Evansburg Arena
Indoor Play Spaces	3	Evansburg Arena

		Wildwood Recreation Complex Marlboro Community Hall
Playschool	1	Peers Community Centre

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## SUMMARY

Parks and recreation are essential components of a thriving community, providing opportunities for physical activity, social interaction, community engagement, and a sense of belonging, fostering strong relationships and a vibrant community.

This framework outlines the services Yellowhead County provides throughout our municipality. It demonstrates the commitment of Council towards enhancing the quality of life of our residents, building a better community for present and future generations.