

PRESS RELEASE

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Mayerthorpe Parks, Recreation and Culture Strategic Master Plan

The Mayerthorpe Parks, Recreation and Cultural Strategic Master Plan was approved by Council on January 11, 2016. The Plan brings a focused approach to addressing aging infrastructure and resident needs while balancing available resources over the next twenty-five years. The Plan strives to accommodate future programs and service priorities of residents while recommending solutions with associated financial impacts.

Input was gathered through household and organizational surveys, public open houses, meetings with operating societies, and users. Council adopted this Plan with the understanding that the Town cannot fund 100% of facility upgrades and maintenance on its own and that Recommendation No. 7 "Existing Infrastructure" found on Page 55 of the Plan has not been approved at this time.

Residents report that they are very pleased with the recreation, parks and cultural opportunities currently offered in Mayerthorpe. Relative to other communities of comparable size the cost to the participant is affordable and the service is of high quality. However, as in any community, the public has identified demands for some services that go beyond the current service level. After careful examination, new directions were recommended to strengthen the relationships between residents, community organizations and the private sector.

Mayerthorpe and area has come through an era of slow growth where recreation, parks and cultural resource management and service delivery has remained relatively unchallenged. However, substantial program growth, in combination with an aging facility infrastructure, has begun to test a system that is not ideally positioned to meet new community demands.

The population is currently estimated at 1,398 in the Town of Mayerthorpe, serving a total catchment area estimated to be 5,400. Projections indicate that this marketplace will likely grow to just over 9,800 over the next ten years and to almost 11,400 in 2040, with over 1,700 residents in Town. The trend for an aging baby boomer population along with a growing adult population will create a demand for greater diversity of opportunities than those existing today.

The Plan is structured to first provide the foundations for development and address broader community development strategies. It identifies the demands of existing residents and groups, and provides predictions of how these demands might look and future demographics. This is followed by a review of current resources and a presentation of those "gaps" or the requirements necessary to adequately service the predicted demands of the community now and up to 2040. Impacts of various development alternatives are presented within the context of the recommendations made.

To view the Mayerthorpe Parks, Recreation and Culture Strategic Master Plan visit www.mayerthorpe.ca/engage/reports-and-plans

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