



# Municipal District of Taber Recreation Master Plan

November 2019







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## Executive Summary

The M.D. of Taber is a rural, agriculturally based municipality located in the central part of southern Alberta. It has a population of 7,098 (2016 Federal Census) that mostly resides in rural areas of the community.

In 2019, a Recreation Master Plan was developed to assist decision makers and administration plan future recreation services and facilities for the community.

The M.D. of Taber contributes to recreation, culture, and parks programs, services and facilities to ensure that opportunities are available to residents. The Municipality operates a park that serves the community; however, most recreation services are provided by three Recreation Boards or community-based organizations operating in the community. Urban municipalities of Taber, Vauxhall, and Barnwell also provide recreation services and facilities that many M.D. residents use. The M.D. of Taber supports all of these organizations through Recreation Grant funding and in-kind supports such as open space/road/building maintenance and supplies.

Conclusions of the Recreation Master Plan were informed by various research and engagement and consultation processes.

- Documented reports and statistical information.
- A survey of over 340 resident households in the community.
- Consultations and surveys with M.D. of Taber staff, Recreation District Board members, M.D. Council members, and representatives of urban municipalities and community-based organizations.
- A comparative review of recreation services provided by rural municipalities in southern Alberta.

### Supporting Community Vitality and Active Living

Many of the public recreation services used by residents are provided through collaborative partnerships that the M.D. of Taber has established with other organizations. This approach, and these partnerships, have benefited M.D. of Taber residents in ensuring that a wide range of opportunities are available either in the community or in urban municipalities located within its borders.

#### ***The M.D. of Taber has Adopted a Community Development Approach to Recreation Service Delivery***

The Municipality provides supports that enhance and build capacity for involvement and engagement of citizens and community-based organizations to initiate, develop, and administer programs, services, and facilities to the community.

This is a common approach adopted by rural municipalities to ensure that residents have access to recreation services. Over the near future, it is expected that this approach will continue for the M.D. of Taber and additional efforts should be undertaken to strengthen opportunities and enhance capacity within the community to ensure that community-based organizations have the support and resources necessary to effectively provide services, programs, and facilities to residents.



## Planning Objectives and Strategies

Recreation fosters healthy active people, social cohesion within the community, and quality of life among residents. This theme represents a foundation for objectives and strategies developed for the Recreation Master Plan.

The following summaries of objectives and strategies developed for the Master Plan are principally intended to enhance collaboration and partnership between the M.D. of Taber and organizations and stakeholders that provide service delivery.

### Facilitating local and regional recreation services

- Services development should be dependent on the scope of market demand, operational capacity, and funding considerations.

- Community-based services - services and facilities located in the M.D. of Taber; principally hamlets.
- Community-wide services - M.D. of Taber services and facilities that service all residents (e.g. M.D. of Taber Park and trail).
- Major recreation facilities and services - Regional services and facilities located principally in Taber, but also Vauxhall.

### Addressing regional issues for services

- Work collaboratively with urban municipalities, while ensuring that resident needs are advocated and access to services is maintained.

- Improve collaboration with urban municipalities.
- Advocate for community needs and expectations.
- Reallocate Recreation Grants funding.

### Supporting growth and change

**within the community** - Respond to initiatives that support community needs in areas experiencing population increases within the community and growing demographic segments.

- Respond to population growth in Grassy Lake.
- Recognize growing population segments such as seniors, young families, and immigrants throughout the community.

### Enhancing capacity building within communities

- Provide supports to community-based organizations for facility, program, and organizational development.

- Provide maintenance (and facility lifecycle planning) support for communities.
- Facilitate program opportunities in communities.
- Foster organization capacity.
- Support development of outdoor spaces in hamlets.

### Formalizing recreation funding

**criteria and processes** - Develop systems and procedures for evaluating Recreation Grant and capital contribution funding to partner organizations.

- Establish process for reviewing Recreation Grant applications.
- Establish parameters for applications requesting capital contributions.
- Consider 3-year funding renewal cycles for Recreation Grants.
- Consider annual adjustments to Recreation Grants.

### Planning for potential changes in financial situation

- Review funding for parks and recreation services based on community needs identified in the planning process (if the M.D. needs to reduce current funding contributions).

- Track and quantify in-kind support provided to Recreation Boards, community-based organizations, and urban municipalities.
- Review current funding contributions based on community needs.
- Review funding for park operations.

## *Planning for Recreation in the M.D. of Taber*

This Recreation Master Plan has been developed for the Municipal District (M.D.) of Taber to assist decision makers and administration plan future recreation services and facilities for the community.

Recreation, culture, and parks are important public services that create quality of life for residents. The M.D. of Taber contributes to recreation, culture, and parks programs, services and facilities to ensure that opportunities are available to residents. Whether it is children being able to participate in sports or culture activities, seniors having facilities for social functions, or adults having access to fitness and learning programs, the M.D. supports opportunities that benefit residents.

In the Strategic Plan (2019-2022) developed for the M.D. of Taber, social and cultural vitality through excellence in services are essential aspects of governance. A strategic priority within the plan is to develop a Recreation Master Plan to report on the current state of M.D. investment in community capacity and identify successes, opportunities, and gaps. Metrics for the Master Plan include:

- Recommendations to take advantage of opportunities and mitigate gaps.
- Financially support community volunteer organizations, programs, and special projects.
- Increase overall community satisfaction and pride.
- Increase the number of active and available volunteers.

This is the first Recreation Master Plan that has been developed for the M.D. of Taber.

The planning process involved examining documented information, identifying community

*Vision - A community based on the principles of openness, trust and integrity, social and cultural vitality and economic and environmental sustainability.*

*Mission - To provide excellence in governance and service that will promote a safe, healthy, diverse and dynamic rural community."*

*Strategic Priority for Community Capacity - Invest in the Community*

*Key initiative - Publish a Recreation Master Plan on the current state of M.D. investment in community capacity, the measurements of success, opportunities, and gaps.*

**Municipal District of Taber Strategic Plan 2019-2022**

assets, and gathering input from residents, community leaders, service providers and agencies, community partners and M.D. staff through various consultation and engagement methods (see Appendix A for Study Methodology). From these processes, various briefing documents were developed that identified salient issues for the M.D. of Taber to address for recreation. This Recreation Master Plan highlights these issues and presents conclusions and recommendations for how the M.D. of Taber might best to serve the recreation, culture, and parks needs of the community.

HarGroup Management Consultants Inc. was engaged to assist the M.D. of Taber develop this Master Plan.





## Public Recreation

Recreation is an important aspect of daily life that enables individuals to become fit, relaxed and energized; engage in enriching activities; enhance relationships; and participate in their communities.

Many studies have shown that a satisfying quality of life for residents in rural communities is a direct result of recreational options. Recreation provides opportunities within the community to strengthen rural life in a variety of ways. Recreation enhances socialization and the lives of seniors and enriches individuals and families. When youth are provided with recreational choices, they build a solid base for their adult lives.

Many different public, not-for-profit, and private sector organizations provide recreation services, programs, and facilities. Public recreation is the provision of recreation services by governments and non-government organizations for the benefit of all individuals within communities.

Government organizations have long recognized the importance and benefits of recreation and, as such, have supported access and inclusiveness to activities, services, and opportunities among all residents. Municipalities contribute to the recreation sector to ensure consistent availability of a broad range of equitable recreation opportunities to individual and groups.

The Canadian Parks and Recreation Association has established a framework for organizations to use when establishing priorities for public recreation. The structure of this framework has been used to identify key issues within the M.D. of Taber and organizing conclusions and recommendations for the development of public recreation for the Municipality.

**Definition of Recreation** - Recreation is the experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative, and spiritual pursuits that enable individual and community wellbeing.

**Vision for Recreation in Canada** - We envision a Canada in which everyone is engaged in meaningful, accessible recreation experiences that foster:

- Individual Wellbeing
- Community Wellbeing
- The wellbeing of our natural and built environments.

A Framework for Recreation in Canada,  
Canadian Parks and Recreation Association. 2015

## Goals and Priorities for Action in Recreation

### Active Living



Foster active living through physical recreation.

### Inclusion and Access



Increased inclusion and access to recreation for populations that face constraints to participation.

### Connecting People and Nature



Help people to connect to nature through recreation.

### Supportive Environments



Ensure the provision of supportive physical and social environments that encourage participation in recreation and build strong, caring communities

### Recreation Capacity



Ensure the growth and sustainability of the recreation field.

Source: A Framework for Recreation in Canada, Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, 2015.

## Identifying Distinct Aspects of the Community

The M.D. of Taber is located in the central part of southern Alberta and is mainly a rural, agriculturally based region. Indeed, a major portion of the population is employed in the agricultural industry; which includes farming and ranching, but also agri-food processing (see Appendix B).

### Stable Population Growth

The population of the M.D. of Taber based on the 2016 Federal Census was 7,098. Over the past two decades, the population of the community has increased steadily at approximately 1% annually.

Within the M.D. of Taber are 5 hamlets, including:

- Enchant
- Grassy Lake
- Hays
- Johnson's Addition
- Purple Springs

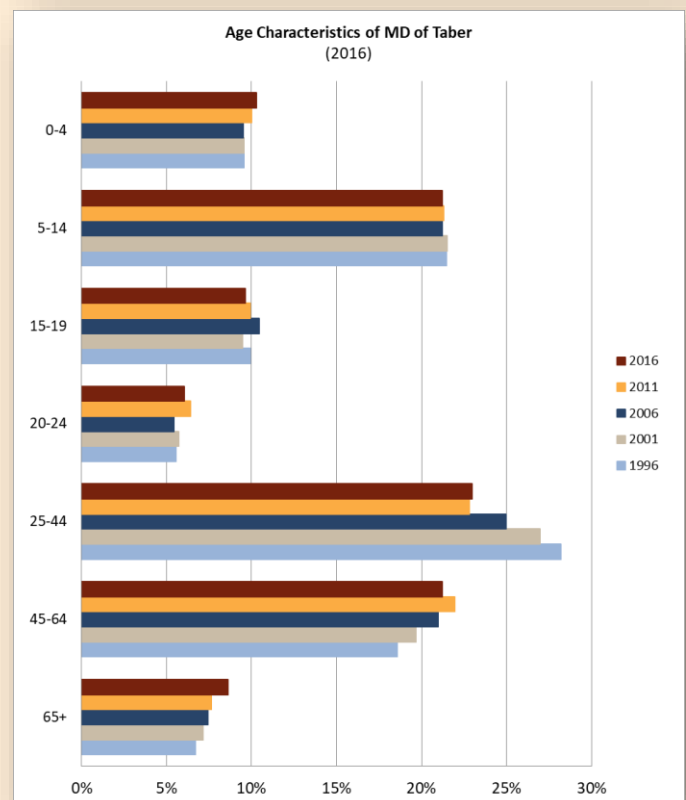
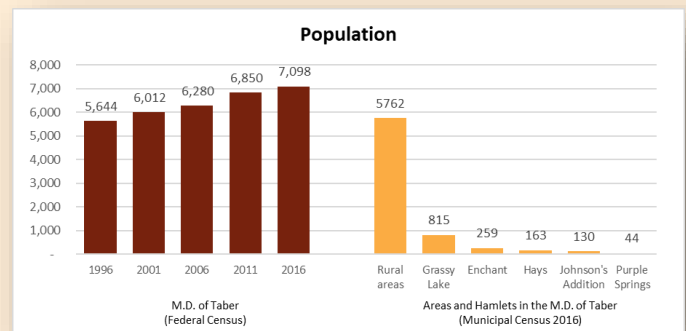
Most residents (5,762) live in rural areas of the municipality. The hamlet populations are 815 for Grassy Lake, 259 for Enchant, 163 for Hays, 130 for Johnson's Addition, and 44 for Purple Springs for a total of 1,411 (source: 2016 Municipal Census).

### Substantial Segments of Children/Youth and Seniors in the Population

The population of the M.D. is comprised of a considerable proportion of families with children and youth residing in the home. Over the past few decades, however, there has been a decline in the proportion of younger adults (aged 25 to 45) and an increase in older adults (aged 45+); particularly among seniors. From a recreation perspective, these distinctions are relevant in that participation

*Historically, recreation has been considered a public good that emphasized outreach to vulnerable people, families, and communities (which often included children, seniors, and new Canadians). The intent of these principles has been to ensure that there is equitable access to recreational experiences. Essentially, recreation is accessible and welcoming to all.*

A Framework for Recreation in Canada,  
Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada



and interests among families with children or youth can be different from those of mid-aged adults (without children/ youth at home) and seniors.

A possible explanation for the proportion of children/youth age categories remaining consistent within the community over the past two decades, while there being a decline in the proportion of younger adults aged 25 to 44, is that families may be having more children. Evidence for this suggestion comes from the increase in the average number of members among M.D. households over the past ten years (see Appendix B). Actually, the average household size in the M.D. (3.5) is higher than other areas such as Alberta (2.6).

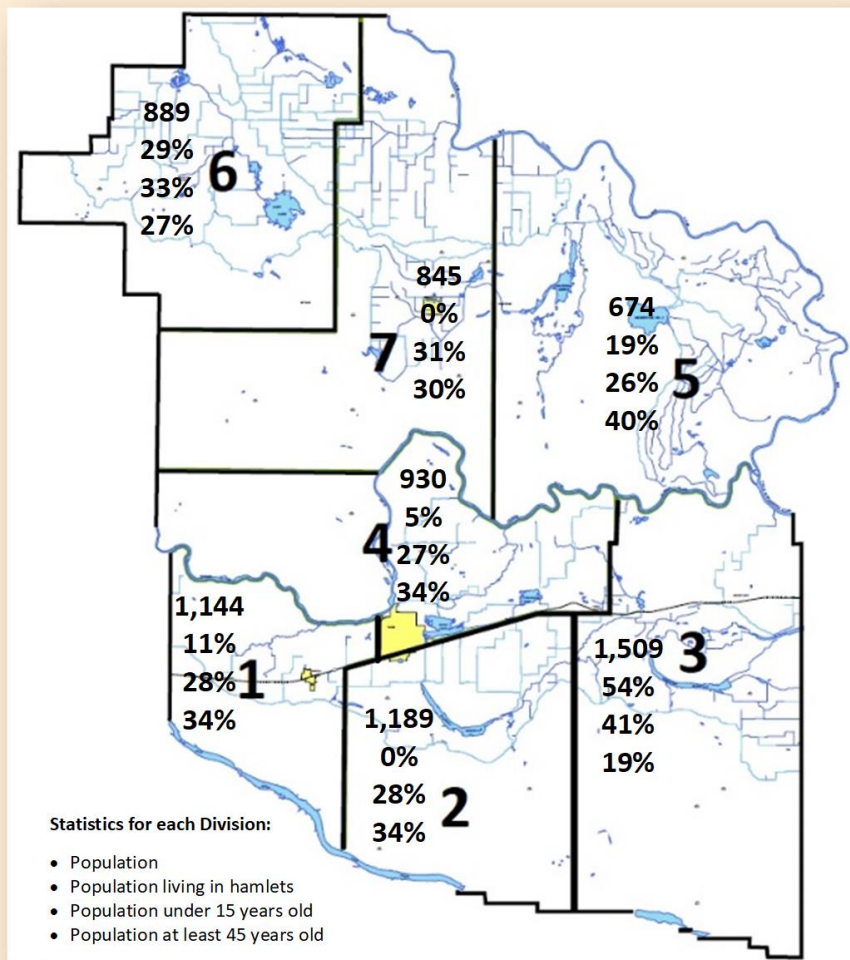
### ***Population Distinctions in Areas of the M.D. of Taber and Growth in Grassy Lake***

Population composition is relevant when considering specific areas within the M.D. For instance, the southeast portion of the M.D. (Division 3), where the Hamlet of Grassy Lake is located, has a high proportion of children and youth (under 15 years old) and a low proportion of seniors, while the northeast portion (Division 5) is the opposite (smaller younger and higher older populations).

It is also worth noting that the population of Grassy Lake grew 23% (or over 5% annually) between 2011 and 2016 based on data from the 2016 Statistics Canada Federal Census, which is significantly higher than the population changes for the rest of the M.D.

It is also worth noting that most of the population (53%) lives in the southern portion of the M.D. (Divisions 1, 2, and 3). In addition, almost half of the population (45%) is located in areas (Divisions 1, 2, and 4) that border the Town of Taber, which is located south central within the municipality.

#### **Characteristics of M.D. of Taber Divisions**



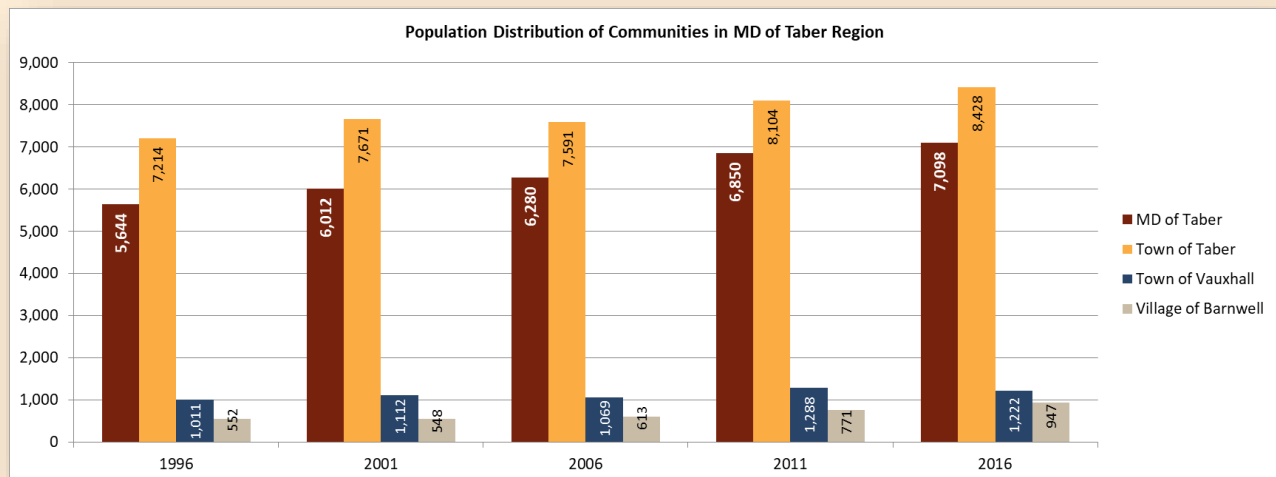
Source: Municipal Census 2016

### *Immigration in the Community*

Immigration has influenced the population profile of the community. Over 1,700 M.D. residents (or almost a quarter of the population) were identified as being immigrants in the 2016 Federal Census and 200 of them immigrated to Canada between 2011 and 2016 (about 3% of the total population), many of which have come from Mexico (e.g. Low German Mennonites - see Appendix B). It is anticipated that the growth experienced in and around Grassy Lake is influenced by immigration from Mexico.

Over the past few decades, a number of studies have been conducted on recreational behaviours and interests of immigrants and ethnocultural minorities. For the most part, these studies have surmised that recreation participation is lower and different among immigrant and ethnocultural minorities compared to the general population. For instance, it has been found that participation in formal sports activities among children and youth of immigrant families is typically lower than that of non-immigrant families. Also, recreational interests among immigrant residents can differ from those of non-immigrant residents. These kinds of patterns are apparent in the data that has been gathered from M.D. residents about participation and volunteer activities.





Source: Statistics Canada

### ***M.D. of Taber within the Regional Context***

The Village of Barnwell and Towns of Vauxhall and Taber are located within the M.D. of Taber's boundaries and represent service centres for many M.D. residents.

These communities have experienced similar levels of population growth as the M.D. of Taber over the past two decades; although the population of Vauxhall has been variable.

The City of Lethbridge is located approximately 30 kilometres from the western border of the M.D. Lethbridge is a major resource centre within the region being the fourth-largest community in Alberta with a population of 99,769 (2018 Municipal Census).

All of these communities offer public recreation services, programs, and facilities that are used by M.D. residents (as will be revealed in the next section).

### **Municipal District of Taber and Region**



Source: Google Maps



## Participating in Recreation

Recreation encompasses many different artistic, cultural, fitness, leisure, social, sporting and volunteer pursuits. The options are numerous, and individuals choose those opportunities that best fit within their interests, priorities, and capacities.

*Canadian prairie provinces residents (aged 15 and older) spend approximately 3.8 hours per day in recreation type activities (leisure, sports, civic, religious, and organizational activities). For the average resident, most of this time is spent using technology such as watching television, using computers, and playing video games; however, approximately an hour per day (7 or 8 hours per week) involves other recreation pursuits.*

Source: 2015 General Social Survey, Statistics Canada

Many studies have shown that a satisfying quality of life for residents, especially in rural communities, is a direct result of recreational options. Recreation provides opportunities within a community to strengthen rural life in a variety of ways. It enhances community vitality and social cohesion among residents, fosters healthy lifestyles among individuals and families, strengthens civic engagement, and supports the local economy. Facilitating access to many different types of opportunities that might be available is an important, yet challenging, aspect of public recreation.

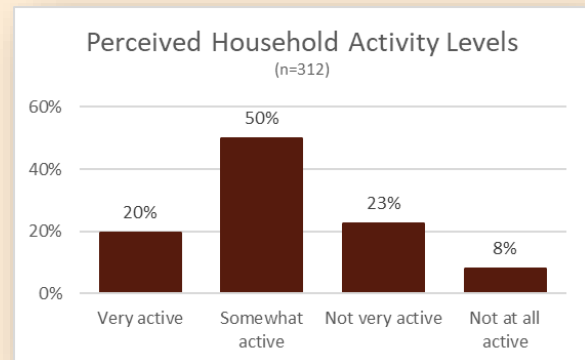
*"All of these types of activities mentioned in this questionnaire are all part of what makes a community a community as well as help build community. Whether or not my family participates in all of those mentioned is not really important to us...we would still like to see them available for those that do participate. If they are not fairly accessible, we will see further migration into larger centres for these types of events and happenings which will have a direct affect on our sense of community both literally and figuratively."*

Community Survey Respondent Comments

<sup>1</sup>Compared to regular scheduled participation such as registering in an 8-week program that occurs on a specific weekday. Examples include attending events/ festivals, hiking/walking, going to a community park/playground, camping, swimming for leisure, cycling/biking, etc.

## M.D. Residents are Active and have Diverse Interests

Most M.D. of Taber resident households consider themselves to be active in recreation pursuits. However, some resident households perceive themselves to be more active than others. For instance, having children, youth, or younger adults in the household typically results in perceptions of higher activity levels (see Appendix C). Conversely, households that have immigrated to the M.D. of Taber from Mexico perceive themselves to be less active. Nonetheless, most M.D. of Taber resident households engage in recreation pursuits of one kind or another.



Source: M.D. of Taber Community Survey

On the whole, however, M.D. residents have diverse recreation interests (see Appendix C) such as attending events, performances, and exhibits, taking part in sports and physical fitness activities, engaging in arts, hobbies, and learning initiatives, participating in outdoor pursuits and nature interpretation, and many other activities. Even so, there are some activities that are more commonly engaged in such as attending festivals and events, going to community parks and playgrounds, and hiking and walking. Indeed, many of the more common activities residents engage in involve spontaneous or unstructured participation<sup>1</sup> or occur sporadically.



Common Activities Engaged In among M.D. Resident Households	
Activities	% Participating
Attending community festivals, events, agricultural exhibitions/rodeos	66
Going to community park/playground	56
Hiking/trail walking/walking for leisure and fitness	50
Swimming for pleasure or leisure	47
Camping	40
Going to a musical performance/concert, live theatre/opera/ballet/etc.	37
Cycling/biking	33
indoor/outdoor ice rinks (e.g. ice hockey, ringette, figure skating, etc.)	27
Fitness - movement/stretching such as aerobics, yoga, Pilates	26
Riding all-terrain vehicles/off-road vehicles/motorized trail biking	25
Jogging or running for fitness & leisure	25

Source: M.D. of Taber Community Survey

Quite a few of the more common activities are supported by infrastructure that is operated by the M.D. or organizations in the hamlets (e.g. Recreation Boards) such as going to community parks/playgrounds, hiking/walking, camping, and cycling/biking.

Common facility-based activities that residents participate in are fitness- oriented pursuits, sports programs (ice facilities, gymnasiums, and sports fields), swimming lessons, and curling.

There is interest among M.D. resident households to start new recreation activities (approximately one in four based on the Community Survey conducted for this Master Plan). Common interests include fitness-oriented activities such as fitness training, movement, stretching, etc., which is typically of interest to older youth and adults rather than children. Other common activities of interest are more multi-generational such as diamond and rectangular field activities (e.g. baseball, soccer, etc.), going to and engaging in performing arts, and learning languages (see Appendix C).

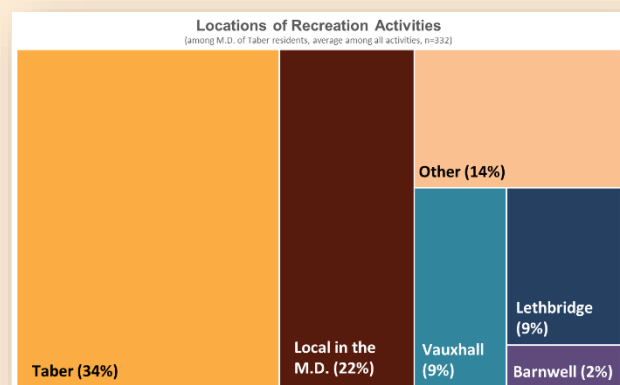
While there is interest for new activities, the primary reasons for not starting these pursuits typically relates to having other interests or priorities rather than program/facility accessibility. However, those households interested in fitness-oriented activities were more likely to identify accessibility as a barrier to participation (see Appendix C).

Barriers to Recreation	
Barriers	% of Responses (N=728)
Other Interests/Priorities	61
Program/Facility Accessibility	25
Social Inclusion Challenges	11
Lack of Motivation	3
Total	100

Source: M.D. of Taber Community Survey

## Recreation Participation Mainly Occurs Locally and in the Region

Many recreation activities take place in Taber and, to a lesser extent, the M.D.; although it should be noted that most of the major indoor facilities are situated in Taber. Further, a large proportion of M.D. of Taber residents live in areas near Taber.



Source: M.D. of Taber Community Survey

Lethbridge is a destination for many cultural activities such as performing arts events, visiting museums, and arts programs (see Appendix C). For the most part, Barnwell, Brooks, and Vauxhall appear to be minor destinations for recreation among M.D. residents.

## Volunteering is a Common Activity among M.D. Residents

For many individuals<sup>2</sup> within the M.D., volunteering is a rewarding activity and, for some, a necessary aspect of recreation involvement.<sup>3</sup> The average M.D. household volunteers approximately 55 hours per year (or approximately 100,000 hours among all households); much of which supports sport, recreation, arts and cultural, and children and youth organizations and occurs in the M.D. of Taber.

Average Hours of Volunteering (All respondents; n=330)	
Location	Average
M.D. of Taber and Hamlets	19
Barnwell	1
Taber	22
Vauxhall	10
Lethbridge	1
Other	2
Total	55
Source: M.D. of Taber Community Survey	

While volunteering is common throughout the M.D., it is much less so among Division 3 residents and those who have immigrated from Mexico (see Appendix C).

There is some interest in volunteering more within the M.D. (e.g. approximately one in twenty are definitely interested - in see Appendix C), mainly to ensure that services continue to be available close to home; but also, to ensure that to contribute to the recreation interests of their households (i.e. in neighbouring communities).

Reasons for Interest in Additional Volunteering		
Reasons	M.D. of Taber and Hamlets (n=57)	Neighbouring Communities (n=50)
Want to keep things going in the community	33	7
General willingness to volunteer	19	12
If more facilities/programs become available close to home	15	3
To be involved in community/with neighbours	14	8
Where (kids) activities are located	14	47
Value volunteerism/give back to the community	6	20
Already in the community (work/kids' school)	0	2
Total	100	100
Source: M.D. of Taber Community Survey		



<sup>2</sup> The Community Survey revealed that almost half of households within the M.D. have members who volunteer (see Appendix C).

<sup>3</sup> Participation in some recreation activities have mandatory volunteering requirements.



## Serving the Community

The recreation sector is comprised of various service providers including governments at all levels, community-based organizations, and private companies. For M.D. of Taber residents, the combination of these kinds of providers ensures a diverse range of recreation activities and opportunities are available.

The M.D. of Taber uses several methods to ensure that recreation services, programs, and facilities are available to residents including direct involvement and collaboration and partnerships with other organizations.

### ***Direct Delivery of Services***

Within the M.D. of Taber, there are parks that are operated in conjunction with private contractors such as the M.D. of Taber Park, Grand Forks Park and Campground, and Lions Park (Vauxhall).

In terms of the M.D. of Taber Park, it is a popular destination for campers and day users originating from the M.D. of Taber, Taber, and elsewhere. For instance, approximately 3,000 personal vehicles enter the park during long weekends.<sup>4</sup> The Municipality has developed various infrastructure such as camping, ball diamonds, horseshoe pits, kitchen shelters, and outdoor amphitheatre, river access, and open spaces. Recently, a paved trail that has been developed between the M.D. of Taber and the town of Taber.

Through Agricultural Services of the M.D. of Taber, there are parks maintenance services provided to Recreation Boards, community-based organizations, and the Towns of Taber and Vauxhall (such as grass mowing, weed spraying, and, in some cases, grading and snow plowing/sanding/salt).

#### **Direct Involvement in Service Provision**

- **Direct Provider** - Municipalities provide direct services through facilities and programs.
- **Enabler** - Municipalities enable opportunities by contracting the services to community-run or commercial organizations.

#### **Collaborative/Partnership Involvement in Service Provision**

- **Facilitator (e.g. provision through others)** - Municipalities facilitate opportunities by partnering with organizations or leasing land and building space for recreation services.
- **Advocate** - Municipalities influence the development and delivery of recreation and culture opportunities through planning, counsel, support and promotion.
- **Regulator** - Municipalities direct or rule actions or processes related to recreation and culture opportunities.

Types of Municipal involvement in Public Recreation

### ***Collaborative/Partnership Services***

There are various recreation services, programs and facilities provided within the M.D. of Taber by Recreation Boards and community-based organizations. Many of these organizations receive funding (operating or capital funds) or other in-kind support (such as open space/road/building maintenance and supplies) from the M.D. of Taber.

Recreation Boards operate in Enchant, Grassy Lake, and Hays and are comprised of volunteers who reside within or around the hamlets. These organizations provide services and operate facilities located within the hamlets such as community halls, ball diamonds, rinks, parks (campgrounds), seniors centres, libraries, chip n' putt, fitness gym, etc.

The M.D. of Taber provides annual grant funding to these Recreation Boards to support operations. Periodically, capital funds are provided to support maintenance and development of facilities.

In addition to the Recreation Boards, the M.D. of Taber provides grant funding to support community-based organizations operating within the M.D. such as heritage facilities and golf courses.

<sup>4</sup> Based on 2016 to 2018 camping statistics and May and August long weekend traffic counts.

## M.D. of Taber and Communities



*"The MD of Taber has provided the financial support to the facilities in the MD so that the facilities can be used at a reasonable cost and can be well-maintained. Because of this financial support, our community is able to offer a wide variety of recreation and cultural opportunities to the members of our community. It is important to continue to support the small communities."*

Service Provider Comment

Recently, the M.D. of Taber has contributed capital funding for the development of the M.D. of Taber Sport Shooting Complex (shooting and archery), operated by the Taber Shooting Foundation. The facility is located within the M.D. of Taber.

Other in-kind support is provided by the M.D. of Taber to Recreation Boards, community-based organizations, and urban municipalities such as building repairs, grass mowing, weed spraying, road/parking lot grading, snow plowing, sanding/salting, and provision of supplies (e.g. gravel, materials for building repairs, etc.).

### ***Urban Community Partnerships***

Through its Recreation Grants program, the M.D. of Taber provides annual operating funds to the Town of Taber, Town of Vauxhall, and Village of Barnwell. These Municipalities offer various services, programs, and facilities that are used by M.D. of Taber residents.

As well, through the Recreation Grants program, various community-based organizations within these communities receive annual operating funds such as seniors citizens organizations, agricultural societies, golf courses, gymnastics facilities, and organizations that host festivals and events.

### **Recreation Board Facilities**

#### **Enchant:**

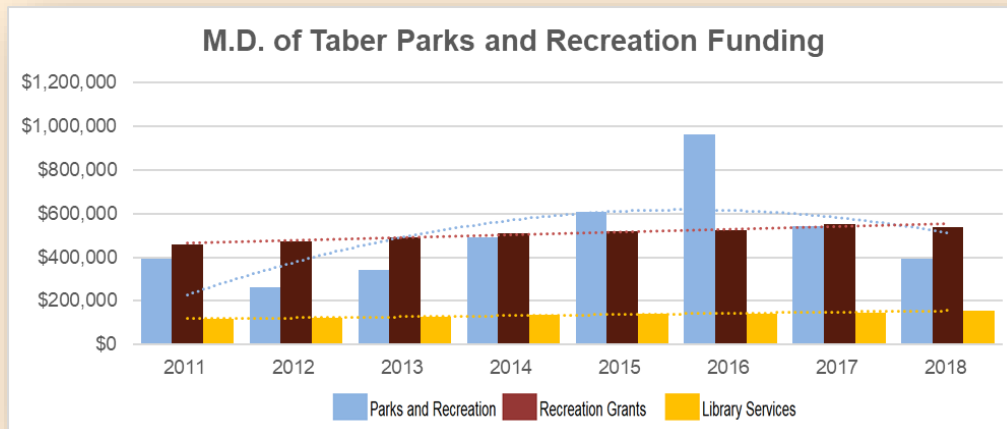
- Community hall
- Enchant Park
  - Campground and kitchen shelter
  - Ball diamond park
  - Heritage facilities
  - Senior citizens
  - Pond and beach
- Rink (building, natural ice)
- Library

#### **Grassy Lake:**

- Community hall
- Campground and kitchen shelter
- Ball diamond park
- Fitness gym
- Library

#### **Hays:**

- Community hall (Civic Centre)
- Multipurpose building
  - Rink (natural ice)
  - Library
- Senior citizens
- Ball diamond park
- Campground
- Chip 'n putt



### ***Parks and Recreation Funding***

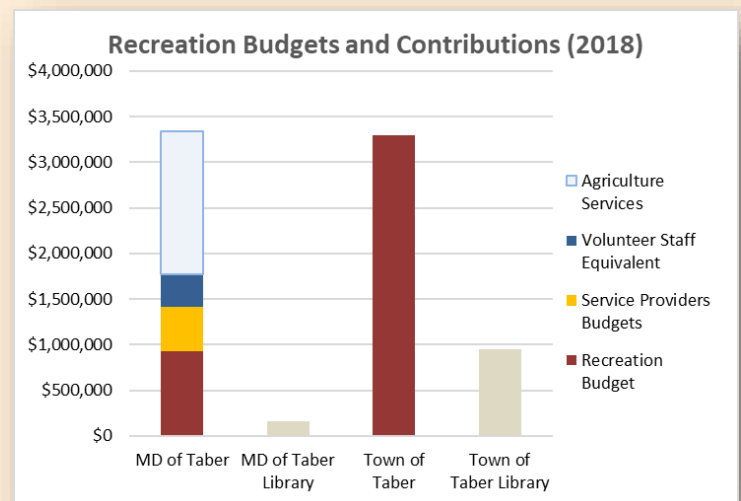
Over the past eight years, the M.D. of Taber's parks and recreation annual operational funding has ranged from approximately \$860,000 to \$1.63 million for parks and recreation, recreation grants, and library services. Most recently, funding has been just over \$1 million for 2017 and 2018.

Parks and Recreation funding is principally used for parks operations and maintenance for the M.D. of Taber Park, Grand Forks Park and Campground, and Lions Park (Vauxhall). Over the past few years, funding has varied depending on operational and maintenance requirements at these parks.

Recreation Grants funding, as well as in-kind support, is provided to Recreation Boards, community-based organizations and urban community partnerships to support recreation opportunities for M.D. residents. Over the past eight years, funding has increased slightly, mainly due to new applications for funding rather than increases to existing grants given to organizations. For instance, funding to the three Recreation Boards has not changed over this time. Recreation Grants to the Towns of Taber and Vauxhall and the Village of Barnwell have also remained consistent<sup>5</sup> over the same period.

Funding for library services has experienced regular increases over the past eight years.

A major component of the approaches used by the M.D. of Taber is to provide support to other organizations such as the three Recreation Boards to ensure that recreation services are available to residents. Estimates of the impact (e.g. operating budgets, use of volunteers, fund raising, etc.) of these organizations suggests that the recreation system within the M.D., including the M.D. of Taber parks and recreation budget, was approximately \$1.78 million. Its worth noting that some of the \$1.56 million operating budget of Agricultural



<sup>5</sup> Funding increased about 10% for the Town of Taber in 2012 and decreased about 7% for the Town of Vauxhall in 2015.

Services could be applied to recreation since the department provides services (e.g. in-kind support) to parks, Recreation Boards, and urban communities in the area.

*"The M.D. of Taber Council have always been very good to work with in helping us provide this facility in our Community; our communities are as good as we make them; the Council has a big responsibility and we feel it is very fair in most of their decisions; we do not agree that more of our tax dollars should go to the bigger centers i.e.: Taber and Vauxhall; our rural communities are very important; the bigger centers should use more volunteers and not expect our rural M.D. of Taber Council to act as a Bank to fund their activities/facilities; Please keep our rural tax dollars to improve our Rural Centers - we spend enough of our individual funds supporting businesses in the big centers."*

Service Provider Comment

Analysis of financial statistics from communities with Municipal District Status within Alberta shows that communities with similar populations ( $\pm 2,000$ ) and overall operating budgets ( $\pm 5$  million) to that of the M.D. of Taber spend similar amounts per population for parks and recreation services.

Financial Statistics for Municipal District Status (2018)					
		M.D. of Taber	All M.D.s	Populations $\pm 2,000^*, **$	Operating Budgets $\pm 5m^*$
Rec. Exp./	Max		27.7%	8.5%	5.2%
Op. Bud.	Min		0.1%	1.7%	2.5%
	Average	4.6%	5.2%	4.4%	4.2%
Rec. Exp./Population		\$ 151.72	\$ 335.16	\$ 152.86	\$ 148.64
Average Municipal General Tax Rate		3.61	4.13	3.87	3.75

Source: Alberta Government, Municipal Affairs, Financial & Statistical Data  
<sup>\*</sup>Of the M.D. of Taber  
<sup>\*\*</sup>Excluding M.D. of Greenview

Approaches used by the M.D. of Taber to fund parks and recreation services, programs, and facilities for residents are similar to those employed by other rural municipalities in southern Alberta. Typically, rural municipalities operate (or hire contractors to operate) parks with campground

services. It is also common for rural municipalities in southern Alberta to provide funding grants to recreation boards (or similar types of organizations such as community associations, districts, etc.) and urban municipalities within or adjacent to their borders.<sup>6</sup> The few that have not provided funding to urban municipalities are expecting to start through Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework negotiations.

It is worth noting that few rural municipalities provide recreation grant funding to community-based organizations operating in the community; rather they rely on recreation boards (community associations, districts, etc.) to distribute funds to these types of organizations. As well, rural municipalities typically do not fund community-based organizations that operate in urban municipalities.

There are differences in how Recreation Grants funding are determined and applied among rural municipalities in southern Alberta. Some municipalities provide higher levels of funding to

urban municipalities and lower to recreation boards, similar to the M.D. of Taber. Others, however, offer higher levels to recreation boards and lower to urban municipalities.

Comparative Information among Rural Municipalities		
	Averages for other Rural Municipalities	M.D. of Taber
Recreation Grants (Rec Boards, Other Organizations, Urban Municipalities)	\$ 466,281	\$ 538,365 <sup>7</sup>
Urban Municipalities Grants Provided to # of Municipalities	\$ 185,435 2	\$ 304,846 3
Populations	5,998	7,173
Average Recreation Grants Per Population	\$ 77.74	\$ 75.05

Source: Comparative Interviews

<sup>6</sup> A couple of rural municipalities currently either provide funding to recreation boards or urban municipalities, but not both.

<sup>7</sup> The amount shown for the M.D. of Taber includes grants for recreation, museums, and other organizations.



In a few cases, rural municipalities provide higher levels of recreation grant funding to community-based organizations and lower to recreation boards.

Nonetheless, when considering the amounts that are budgeted for recreation boards, other community-based organizations, and urban municipalities, the average spent per population by other rural municipalities is consistent with that of the M.D. of Taber.

Recently, a couple of rural municipalities have identified the need to plan for lifecycle maintenance within their communities and have established reserve funds programs to address facility maintenance and replacement in the future. These initiatives are considered necessary to address aging facilities within the community; many of which are in that latter years of their life stage.

### Service Provision based on Use

Consideration of facility use among M.D. of Taber residents provides a profile of how the recreation system is servicing the community.

From these data, it becomes apparent that the direct services provided by the M.D. of Taber such as the M.D. of Taber Park, the pathway between the M.D. of Taber Park and Taber and the Grand Forks Park and Campground are important and well used resources among residents.

Further, recreation services located in the hamlets of Enchant, Grassy Lake, and Hays such as community halls, sport fields, parks, and arenas are extensively used by residents in and around these communities (see Appendix C - most residents in these areas use these facilities).

Its also apparent that use of recreation services in Taber indicate that the community is a major recreation destination for M.D. residents; but

Facilities Used		% of Respondents (n=333)
In the M.D.	M.D. of Taber Park	60
	Pathway between the M.D. of Taber Park and the Town of Taber	27
	Grand Forks Park & Campground	15
	MD Gun/Archery Range	11
	Vauxhall – Lions Park (campground)	9
	Motocross Track	3
In Enchant	Enchant Municipal Park	18
	Enchant ball/softball diamond(s)	11
	Enchant Community Centre	10
	Enchant Golf Course	8
	Enchant Community Library	7
	Enchant Seniors Centre	5
	School gymnasium, sport fields, tracks, etc.	4
In Grassy Lake	Enchant Ice Arena	3
	Community Hall	16
	Grassy Lake ball/softball diamond(s)	9
	Grassy Lake Community Library	8
	School gymnasium, sport fields, tracks, etc.	6
	Gym (at community hall)	5
	Centennial Park Municipal Campground	5
In Hays	Archery Club	2
	Civic Centre (community hall)	9
	Multipurpose Building (arena)	7
	Hays Campground	6
	Seniors Centre	5
	Hays Library	5
	Hays ball/softball diamond(s)	4
	School gymnasium, sport fields, track, etc.	3
	Hays Chip n' Putt	3
	Arts & Craft Society	2
In Taber	Aquafun Centre	50
	Arenas	35
	Walking trails in town	31
	Auditorium	30
	Taber Agriplex	28
	Trout Pond	27
	Taber Public Library	25
	Ken McDonald Memorial Sports Complex (ball diamonds and	25
	Spray park	25
	School gymnasiums, sport fields, tracks, etc.	22
	Taber Golf Course	20
	Fitness clubs/gyms/yoga studios/martial arts studios	16
	Curling Club	12
	Taber Gymnastic Club	12
	Parkside Manor Seniors Centre	11
	Skatepark	7
	Taber Pistol and Revolver Club	4
In Vauxhall	Taber Arts and Crafts Centre	4
	Taber Archery Range	3
	Tennis Courts	2
	Vauxhall Arena	20
	Ball/softball diamonds	14
	Outdoor pool	13
	Vauxhall Golf Course	12
	School gymnasiums, sport fields, tracks, etc.	11
	Curling Club	7
	Vauxhall Public Library	6
In Barnwell	Vauxhall Seniors Centre	4
	Tennis courts/pickleball courts	2
	School gymnasiums, sport fields, tracks, etc.	9
	Barnwell Library	8
	Seniors Centre	3
In Barnwell	Ball diamond(s)	3
	Skateboard park	1
	Yoga club	0

Source: M.D. of Taber Survey

% of Respondents Using Facilities:

50%+ 33% to <50% 25% to <33%

especially for those who live in the southern portion (Divisions 1, 2, 3, and 4) of the M.D. (see Appendix C).

The community of Vauxhall is considered a secondary destination for recreation services based on facility use, basically for residents living in the northern portion (Divisions 5, 6, and 7) of the M.D. (see appendix C).

Recreation services in Barnwell principally serve residents who live in proximity of this community.

Essentially, parks operated by the M.D. of Taber and services, programs, and facilities located in Taber and, to a much lesser extent, Vauxhall, are regional services, while those in Enchant, Grassy Lake, Hays, and Barnwell are local services.

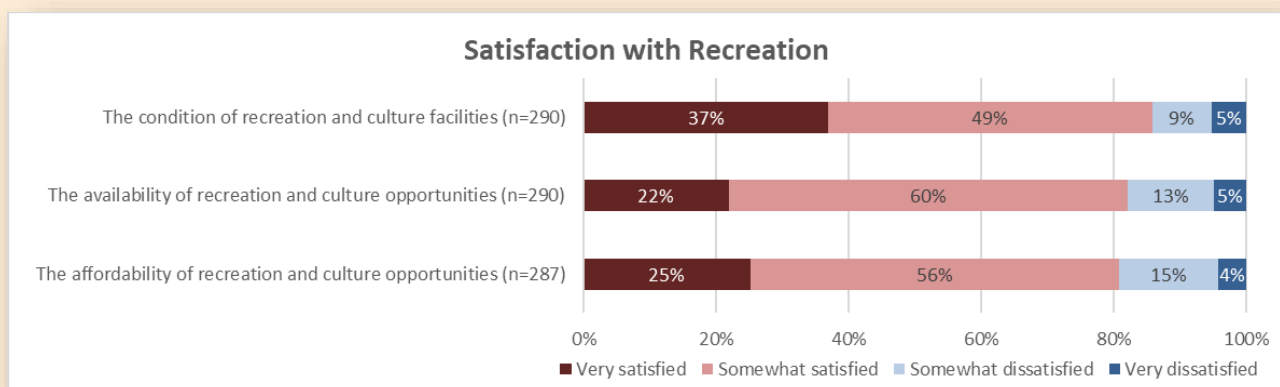
### ***Residents' Perceptions of the Recreation System***

Based on feedback obtained throughout the public engagement and consultation process, the M.D. of Taber community recognizes the benefits of the approaches used by the Municipality to ensure the availability of recreation services. There are many different needs and interests among residents and stakeholders of the community and, for the most part, many of these expectations are being addressed from a local and regional perspectives.

*"Without the M.D. of Taber's support many small community facilities would be forced to shut down. Our small communities are great place to live."*

*"Living so close to Taber (5 min), we access a lot of our services through Taber, so I hope that the MD of Taber is able to help support those services through my taxes. I think money should be focused on building up and maintaining those services and buildings that are being accessed and used."*

Community Survey Respondents' Comments





## Developing Recreation in the Community

While the recreation system adopted by the M.D. of Taber has largely supported accessibility to recreation activities and opportunities for residents, the engagement and consultation process identified needs and expectations that may be considered for consideration and development within the community.

### Residents' Expectations

Residents' contributions typically involve opinions about the need for services, programs, and facilities.

In terms of programs, there is evidence from the engagement process to suggest that more opportunities may be needed for fitness-oriented activities (cardio, strength, movement, etc.), baseball/softball/fastball programs, and arts-related events and programs.

In the Community Survey, some residents (about three in ten households) would prefer new, expanded or redeveloped facilities in the community (see Appendix C).

It is worth noting that residents residing in the southern portion (Divisions 1, 2, 3, and 4) of the M.D. were more likely to perceive the need for facility development, as were those who had children and youth residing in the household (see Appendix C).

New, expanded, or redeveloped facilities) most commonly suggested by M.D. residents in the Community Survey were trails/pathways, update/more Taber Arena/ rinks, and indoor soccer (box lacrosse) facilities.

Trails and pathways were mainly identified for local areas/within the M.D., while upgrades/ more Taber arenas/rinks and indoor soccer (box lacrosse) facility were noted for Taber.

New/Expanded/Redeveloped Facilities Needed					
(n=37)					
	% of Responses				
	% of Responses	Local area/ community	Barnwell	Taber	Vauxhall
Totals	100	26	3	60	11
Trails/pathways	13	7	1	4	1
Upgrade/more Taber Arena/rinks	11	0	0	11	0
Indoor soccer (box lacrosse) facility	11	1	0	9	1
Recreation/multi-use centre (pools, fitness gym, studios, rinks, indoor track, indoor fields, etc.)	7	0	0	7	0
Indoor tracks	7	0	0	6	1
Fitness gym	5	2	1	0	2
Ice rink	5	4	1	0	0
Theatre/performing arts centre	4	0	0	4	0
Spraypark	3	3	0	0	0
Bike park	3	3	0	0	0
Repair to Vauxhall arena/curling/community centre	2	0	0	0	2
More campgrounds	2	0	0	2	0
Playground	2	1	0	0	1
Other*	26	5	0	17	3

Source: M.D. of Taber Community Survey

A small portion of residents identified a multi-use recreation centre and indoor track for Taber.

It should be noted that although the above observations identify common responses, they represent small portions of residents who responded to the Community Survey.<sup>4</sup>

Specific interests are prevalent throughout the M.D. to have certain facilities closer to home such as trails/pathways and an ice rink in the southeast (Division 3) area and a fitness gym in the northeast area (Division 6).<sup>9</sup>

Notable Divisions for Indicating Need for Specific Facilities							
	DIVISIONS						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Trails/pathways							
Upgrade/more Taber Arena/rinks							
Indoor soccer (box lacrosse) facility							
Indoor tracks							
Recreation/multi-use centre							
Fitness gym							
Ice rink							

Source: M.D. of Taber Community Survey

Residents who have immigrated from Mexico identified the need for fitness gyms, ice rinks, more campgrounds, trails/pathways, and improving diamonds; mainly to be within their local area/communities (see Appendix C).



## Recreation Board Considerations

The following issues were raised by members of the Recreation Boards:

### Enchant

- Need for trails/pathways in the community.
- Need for succession planning for Board members.

### Grassy Lake

- Need for:
  - Trails/pathways in the community for walking/biking
  - Trail system at Grand Forks Park
  - Improved access to the public library (in school and only operated during day)
  - More investment in fitness gym (recent investment and promotion has resulted in around 50 memberships)
  - Host community events (Canada Day)
  - Indoor rink
  - BMX park
  - Better basketball hoops in the dryland gym
  - Things for kids to do in the community (especially teenagers)
  - Boat dock at Sherburne Lake
  - Golf course
  - Indoor fieldhouse.
- Concern about the age of the existing facility, ongoing maintenance needs (some being significant such as roof replacement), and its ability to deter vandalism.

### Hays

- Need for trails/pathways in the community
- Concern about no increases of funding in many years and upcoming carbon tax
- Need for succession planning for Board members.

Members of Recreation Boards also expressed concern about lack of increases to funding provided to their organizations through the Recreation Grants.

<sup>8</sup> Note: the 13% of survey respondents stating pathways/trails are needed in the table on the preceding page represents 5% of all respondents.

<sup>9</sup> Note: Other specific facilities identified were for urban communities.



## Community-Based Organization Considerations

When asked about facility needs, most community-based organization service providers emphasized expected general facility maintenance issues. Organizations operating in Grassy Lake expressed concerns about the community centre building continuing to meet the needs of the community.

## Urban Municipality Consultations

Issues were raised by representatives of urban municipalities (Village of Barnwell, Town of Taber, and Town of Vauxhall):

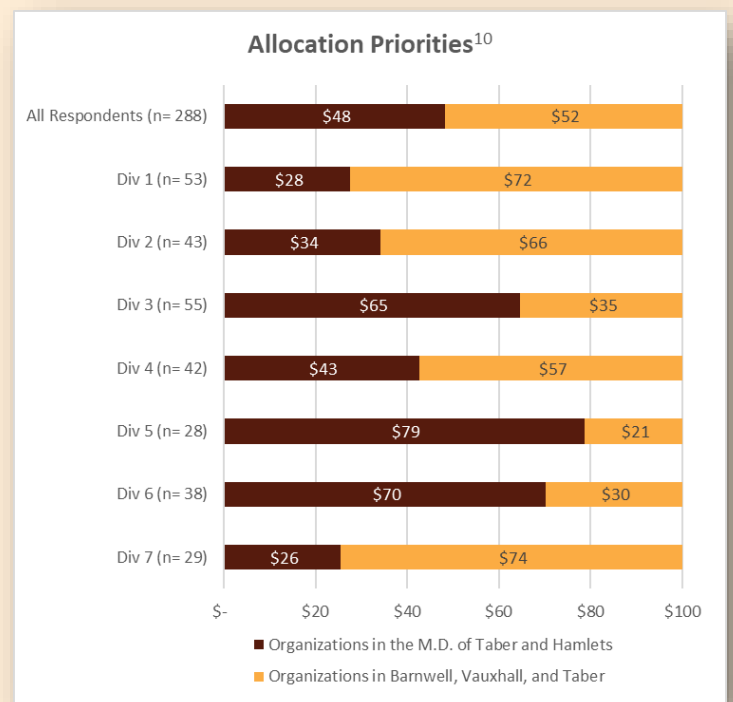
- Admission fees/prices have not increased for recreation facilities in recent years.
- Facilities are aging and need investment.
- Possible upcoming investments - a new multi-purpose facility in Taber and, possibly, an indoor baseball training facility in Vauxhall.
- Need to define equitable recreation funding - grants from M.D. of Taber have not increased in some time.
- Communication between communities is perceived to be limited - preference for more consultation and collaboration.
- Concern about community-based organizations having access to Recreation Grant funding from the M.D. of Taber.



## Funding Priorities and Support

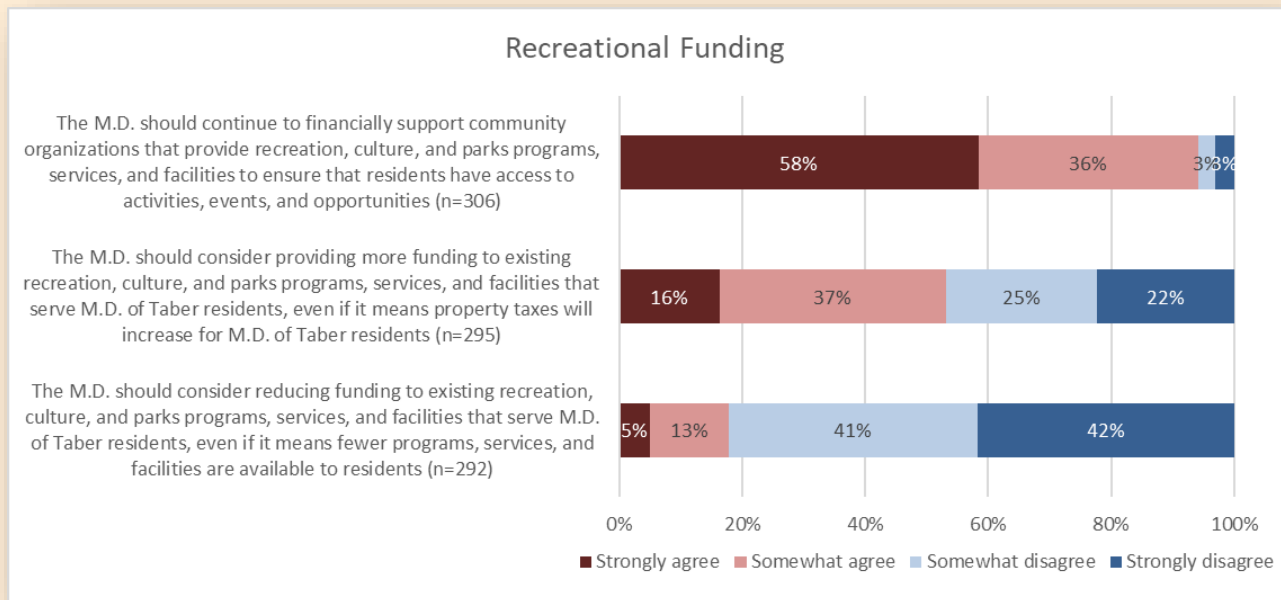
Residents were consulted on various issues to gauge priorities and support for funding M.D. of Taber parks and recreation initiatives.

In terms of allocation priorities for services programs, and facilities, residents seem to expect about as much emphasis be put into the M.D. as in the urban municipalities of Barnwell, Taber, and Vauxhall. The exceptions are residents who live in southeast, northeast, and northwest (Divisions 3, 5, and 6) portions of the M.D., or those that live further away from the urban municipalities. These residents prefer higher priority to recreation in their communities compared to the urban municipalities.



Source: M.D. of Taber Community Survey

<sup>10</sup> Note: Residents were asked to allocate \$100 to either organizations located in the M.D. of Taber and hamlets or in Barnwell, Vauxhall, and Taber to ensure that public recreation, culture and parks programs, services, and facilities were available.

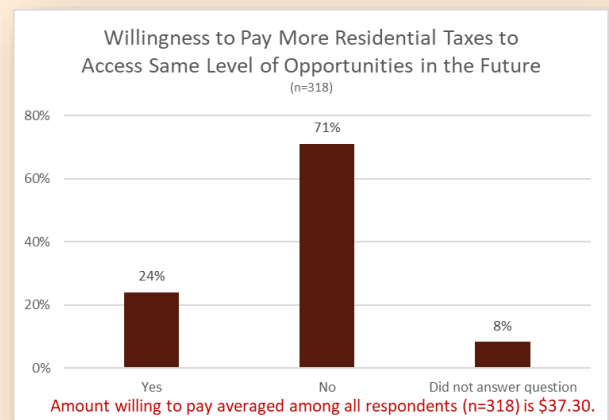


Source: M.D. of Taber Community Survey

Most residents who participated in the Community survey acknowledged that the M.D. should financially support community recreation organizations to ensure residents have access to activities, events, and organizations. As well, most residents disagreed that the M.D. should reduce funding to recreation, even if it means fewer programs, services, and facilities are available to residents. However, when it comes to the M.D. providing more funding, residents were somewhat apprehensive; especially if it means property taxes would increase.

Residents were directly asked if they would be willing to pay more in residential taxes so that M.D. residents can continue to access the same level of public recreation, culture, and parks opportunities in the future. To this question, most residents said no. However, almost a quarter of residents said yes and, based on the additional amount they would be willing to pay, the average increase to all households in The M.D. would be \$37.30 (average calculated to all residents who participated in the Community Survey).

It is worth noting that residents who indicated they would be willing to spend more on property taxes were much more likely to perceive their households as being very or somewhat active in recreation (see Appendix C).



Source: M.D. of Taber Community Survey

*"We would not be willing to pay the money as we are not currently getting what we need from the options and often end up on wait lists."*

Community Survey Respondent Comments



## Supporting Community Vitality and Active Living

The planning objectives and strategies presented in this Recreation Master Plan were developed in response to issues revealed in the comprehensive assessment of community issues, needs, and expectations for recreation services, programs, and facilities. The planning elements have been organized for the M.D. of Taber are intended to offer guidance and direction for public recreation services, programs, and facilities within the community.

While the M.D. of Taber provides direct services to residents through the M.D. of Taber Park and other parks services (e.g. trail between the Park and Taber), most public recreation services are supported through collaborative and partnering initiatives with other organizations. This approach, and these partnerships, have benefited M.D. of Taber residents in ensuring that a wide range of opportunities are available either in the community or in urban municipalities located within its borders.

Other benefits of employing this approach include enabling local residents to be engaged in recreation initiatives within their own communities; fostering opportunities for fund raising and generating revenues that are not available to a municipality; and taking advantage of operating efficiencies (e.g. use of volunteers, access lower costs not available to the public sector, etc.).

Over the near future, it is expected that additional efforts will be undertaken to strengthen these opportunities and enhance capacity within the community to ensure that these community-based organizations have the support and resources necessary to effectively provide services, programs, and facilities to residents.

*Recreation services in the M.D. of Taber are delivered by a variety of providers that, together, comprise the public recreation service sector of the community. While the M.D. of Taber is involved in parks and trails provision within the community, other organizations such as Recreation Boards are primary providers of recreation services, programs, and facilities. The M.D. of Taber provides support to these organizations in a variety of ways, which ultimately enhances involvement and engagement of citizens in the community, enriches social networks, fosters interdependence among M.D. residents, and creates a sense of community, belonging, and vitality.*

### Community Development Approach to Service Delivery

It is common for municipalities to adopt this type of approach, which is known as a community development approach to service delivery, or some form of it to ensure residents have access to services; especially among rural municipalities within Alberta. Indeed, all of the southern Alberta municipalities that were interviewed as part of the Recreation Master Plan process rely on this approach for service delivery.

Throughout the planning process, there was no compelling evidence to suggest that alternative approaches should be considered for service delivery.

- While population growth is occurring within the community, the increases are not likely to warrant consideration of other approaches.
- Satisfaction levels among residents for availability and affordability of recreation services are relatively high.
- Existing service providers such as Recreation Boards recognize the advantages of volunteer initiated service delivery (e.g. low cost services to residents, enhancing engagement of citizens, building community pride, etc.).
- For the most part, there were few service gaps perceived among residents and stakeholders for public recreation.
- A direct delivery approach by the M.D. of Taber would likely result in higher costs for recreation services (e.g. staffing for hamlet facilities).

### ***Further Issues Emerging from the Research and Consultation Process***

Throughout the preceding sections of this document, various issues about recreation for the M.D. of Taber have been identified and examined. However, there are additional issues that emerged in the planning process that should be considered in the development of conclusions and recommendations within this Master Plan.

The following summaries highlight these issues and present additional context for the recreation planning initiatives that have been recommended for the M.D. of Taber.

- Recreation grants provided by the M.D. of Taber are based on historical allocations and new grants are awarded at the discretion of Council. There is not a recreation grant review process in place to evaluate the effectiveness of the current grants nor are there clear evaluation criteria established to assess requests for new grants.
- There have been numerous on-going requests from community organizations and the Towns of Taber and Vauxhall in particular, for the M.D. to increase financial contributions for the operation of existing recreation facilities.
- Population growth in the M.D. is primarily occurring in and around the Hamlet of Grassy Lake and is a result of the immigration of Mennonites from Mexico. It should be noted that religious and ethnocultural groups often have distinct, non-traditional recreation interests and their participation in “public” recreation is typically lower than the general population.
- It is anticipated that the recreational needs of children and youth will need to continue to be a priority for the M.D., however, the interests of the aging population in the region cannot be ignored – public recreation is often most relevant to these two life stages (i.e. children/youth and seniors).
- The existing recreation facility infrastructure in the M.D. is aging possibly resulting in an increasing demand for capital funding for maintenance and repair (lifecycle requirements).



- There is a perception that volunteerism, a significant historical resource for the delivery of recreation services in the M.D., is declining.
- There is an expectation that the M.D. should contribute to the capital and operating costs of new recreation facilities in the Town of Taber – multiplex to replace the existing arenas, pool and gymnasium/auditorium and a new fieldhouse development.
- The M.D. may have to reduce its current annual operating budget due to the impact of the downturn in Alberta’s resource based economy - possible significant reduction in “linear” property taxes, This may make it difficult for the M.D to retain its current level of recreation services, let alone respond to demands for increased spending.



## ***Planning Objectives and Strategies***

Recreation fosters healthy active people, social cohesion within the community, and quality of life among residents. This theme is a foundation for the objectives and strategies developed within this Recreation Master Plan. Active and engaged residents in local and regional recreation will support vibrancy within the community.

The objectives and strategies developed within this Master Plan are principally intended to enhance collaboration and partnership between the M.D. of Taber and organizations and stakeholders that provide service delivery.

Currently, the M.D. of Taber does not have staff resources that are directly responsible for recreation service development and implementation. Any staff resources used for recreation are lent from other areas of the organization such as Agricultural Services or Corporate Services. It is expected that this will not change. No other rural municipality in southern Alberta employs staff who are directly responsible for recreation services and rural municipalities that have recreation staff in Alberta typically have larger populations (e.g. >12,000 to 13,000 residents). This context has been considered in the development of the objectives and strategies presented in this Master Plan.

## **Summary of Objectives and Strategies**

### **Facilitating local and regional recreation services**

- Community-based services
- Community-wide services
- Major recreation facilities and services

### **Addressing regional issues for services**

- Collaboration with urban municipalities
- Advocate community needs and expectations
- Reallocation of Recreation Grants funding

### **Supporting growth and change within the community**

- Address population growth areas
- Recognize growing population segments

### **Enhancing capacity building within communities**

- Provide maintenance (and facility lifecycle) support for communities
- Facilitate program opportunities
- Foster organization capacity
- Support development of outdoor spaces

### **Formalizing recreation funding criteria and processes**

- Establish process for Recreation Grant review
- Establish parameters for capital contributions
- Consider funding renewal cycles
- Consider annual adjustments to Recreation Grants

### **Planning for potential changes in financial situation**

- Track and quantify in-kind support provided to Recreation Boards, community-based organizations, and urban municipalities.
- Review current funding contributions based on community needs
- Review funding for park operations

**Objective: Facilitating local and regional services**

- Services development should be dependent on scope of market demand, operational capacity, and funding considerations.

**Strategies:**

- Community-based services:
  - Services and smaller community-based facilities and amenities in the hamlets and Barnwell should be maintained (or replaced if necessary).
  - Services and facilities in hamlets should continue to be operated by local community groups (e.g. Recreation Boards).
  - Types of facilities and services considered community-based include:
    - Community halls
    - Seniors facilities
    - Playfields
    - Campgrounds
    - Libraries
    - Playgrounds/tot lots
    - Trails and pathways
    - School facilities
- Community-wide services:
  - Continue to provide and develop services through the M.D. of Taber Park as this is one of the most used recreation resources by all M.D. residents.
  - Other community-wide services may be considered and developed with support from the M.D. of Taber for use by all residents. These facilities should be initiated and operated by community-based (not-for-profit) organizations (an example of a community-wide service developed in conjunction with the M.D. of Taber and operated by a community-based organization is the M.D. of Taber Sport Shooting Complex).
- Major recreation facilities and services:
  - Major recreation facilities and services (e.g. indoor ice-plant arenas, aquatic facilities, fieldhouses, etc.) should be in the town of Taber. Future investment by the M.D. in the upgrading or replacement of Taber facilities would be an effective use of resources as long as M.D. residents continue to have fair and equitable access to these facilities.
  - Existing services and facilities in Vauxhall generally be maintained with support from the M.D. of Taber.



## ***Objective: Addressing regional issues for services***

- Work collaboratively with urban municipalities, while ensuring that resident needs are advocated and access for services is maintained.

### **Strategies:**

- Collaboration with urban municipalities:
  - Initiate and formalize communication and collaboration with the Town of Taber (and possibly the Town of Vauxhall) about recreation issues and developments (e.g. quarterly, semi-annual meetings among administration staff).
  - Continue to work with the Town of Taber on regional recreation issues including membership on the Town of Taber Recreation Board and, possibly, the development of a regional recreation strategic plan.
- Advocate community needs and expectations:
  - Communicate needs and expectations of M.D. residents for access to recreation services and future service development throughout the region. This may involve new/expanded/redeveloped facilities within Taber depending on conditions and circumstances; however, these initiatives should consider the critical mass for demand of services (including available opportunities in surrounding municipalities such as Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, and Brooks).
  - Current interests among M.D. of Taber residents primarily include upgrades to Taber ice rinks and indoor field facilities.
- Reallocation of Recreation Grants funding:
  - Consider reallocation of Recreation Grants to urban municipalities (e.g. Taber and Vauxhall) that are currently being provided to service providers located in those communities for operational programming.
  - Consider referring future funding requests from service providers located in urban municipalities to their respective Councils.

***Objective: Supporting growth and change within the community***

- Respond to initiatives that support community needs in areas experiencing population increases within the community and growing demographic segments.

**Strategies:**

- Address population growth areas:
  - Consider initiatives that would support population growth areas such as within Grassy Lake. There is not a strong case for the development of more recreation facilities in the M.D. with the possible exception of the need to address population growth in and around Grassy Lake. Any facility development responding to this growth should focus on those amenities that are valued at the community-based level – community halls, seniors facilities, playfields, campgrounds, libraries, playground/tot lots, trails and pathways, and school facilities (i.e. gymnasiums).
  - Over the next five to ten years, it is not expected that the Hamlets of Johnsons Addition and Purple Springs will require development of community-based services, except possibly playground/tot lots and trails and pathways.
- Recognize and support growing population segments:
  - Consider initiatives that support recreation development for seniors (e.g. seniors programs, etc.), young families (parent and tot programs, active start for kids programs, etc.), and immigrants (based on requests like the recent development of ball diamonds). Demand for recreation services are expected to increase with growth of these demographic segments of the community.



## ***Objective: Enhancing capacity building within communities***

- Provide supports to community-based organizations (e.g. Recreation Boards) for facility, program, and organizational development.

### **Strategies:**

- Provide maintenance (and facility lifecycle) support for communities:
  - Continue ongoing M.D. of Taber support for community-based organizations to operate facilities and outdoor spaces (e.g. Agricultural Services support, funding, etc.).
  - Initiate a facility lifecycle planning and review process for community-based services facilities (typically, this kind of process is beyond the capacity of volunteer groups). The review would identify ongoing maintenance issues and costs and, possibly, identify safety issues.
  - Consider establishing a lifecycle reserve fund that could be used to fund future maintenance and development of community-based services facilities.
- Facilitate program opportunities:
  - Facilitate opportunities with organizations/communities to provide programming in hamlets (e.g. fitness organizations for aerobic/movement programs, FCSS for parent/child programs, etc.) at existing community-based services facilities.
- Foster organization capacity:
  - Identify and promote programs (to Recreation Boards) that have been developed by government and non-government agencies to assist volunteer organizations with strategic planning, organizational development, volunteer planning, etc.
- Support development of outdoor spaces:
  - Support hamlets that express interest in developing outdoor spaces such as trails, playgrounds, community parks, etc.
    - Working committees should be established comprised of interested residents.
    - Municipality provides supports to committees for planning.

**Objective: Formalizing recreation funding criteria and processes**

- Develop systems and procedures for evaluating Recreation Grant and capital contribution funding to partner organizations (e.g. Recreation Boards, urban municipalities, etc.).

**Strategies:**

- Establish process for Recreation Grant review:
  - Establish criteria to evaluate new applications for Recreation Grants:
    - Type of organization (Municipality, not-for-profit, commercial organization)
    - Participants/Users served (M.D. residents)
    - Volunteer contributions
    - Public benefit
    - Requirement for funding.
  - Develop an application process for new and ongoing Recreation Grant funding (see Appendix D for example).
- Establish parameters for capital contributions:
  - Identify parameters for the M.D. of Taber to provide capital contributions to facility development by community-based organizations and urban municipalities (possibly using criteria similar to those identified above). Parameters may involve expectations for access, contribution amounts, expected ongoing operational funding support, etc.).
- Consider funding renewal cycles:
  - Implement a 3-year application cycle for Recreation Grants so that community-based organizations can rely upon funding and better plan their operations (note: annual submissions of financial information should continue to ensure accountability).
- Consider annual adjustments for Recreation Grants:
  - Consider annual adjustments of Recreation Grants to reflect inflation costs.



## ***Objective: Planning for potential changes in financial situation***

(If the M.D. of Taber needs to reduce current funding contributions to recreation services in the short term due to declining operational funds)

- Review funding for parks and recreation services based on community needs identified in the planning process (if necessary).

### **Strategies:**

- Track and quantify in-kind support provided to Recreation Boards, community-based organizations, and urban municipalities:
  - Develop and implement a tracking and approval system for in-kind services such as building repairs, grass mowing, weed spraying, road/parking lot grading, snow plowing, sanding/salting, and provision of supplies (e.g. gravel, materials for building repairs, etc.) to measure and quantify levels of support provided to Recreation Board, community-based organizations, and urban municipalities.
- Review current funding contributions based on community needs:
  - Conduct a comprehensive review of current recreation grants to partner organizations. Based on the findings of the Community Survey, it is expected that priority for funding should be given to Recreation Boards, then urban municipalities, community-based organizations in the M.D., and community-based organizations in the urban municipalities.
- Review funding for park operations:
  - Conduct a similar review of funds that are used for parks operations. Consideration may be given to operating days/hours, general maintenance, service provision, etc. when consideration how to reduce operational funding.

## Implementation of Strategies

Implementation of the Recreation Master Plan strategies have been scheduled over a ten-year time frame. The schedule considers available resources (internal; however, external resources may also be considered) to develop and apply the strategies.

Strategies and Objectives	2000's									
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<b>Facilitating local and regional recreation services</b>										
• Community-based services										
• Community-wide services										
• Major recreation facilities and services										
<b>Addressing regional issues for services</b>										
• Collaboration with urban municipalities										
• Advocate community needs and expectations										
• Reallocation of Recreation Grants funding										
<b>Supporting growth and change within the community</b>										
• Address population growth areas										
• Recognize growing population segments										
<b>Enhancing capacity building within communities</b>										
• Provide maintenance (lifecycle) support for communities										
• Facilitate program opportunities										
• Foster organization capacity										
• Support development of outdoor spaces										
<b>Formalizing recreation funding criteria and processes</b>										
• Establish process for Recreation Grant review										
• Establish parameters for capital contributions										
• Consider funding renewal cycles										
• Consider annual adjustments to Recreation Grants										
<b>Planning for potential changes in financial situation</b>										
• Track and quantify in-kind support										
• Review funding contributions based on community needs										
• Review funding for park operations										
Plan and develop							Implement			



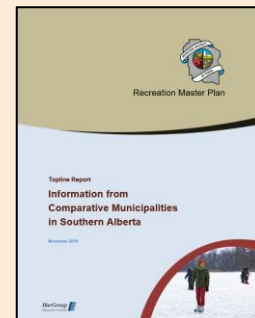
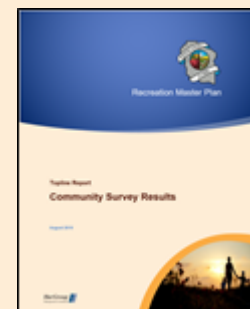
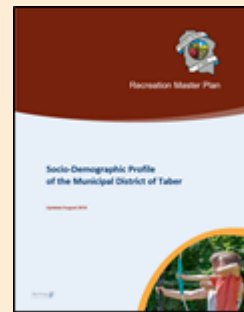
## Appendix A

### (Study Methodology)

Various information gathering processes were undertaken to identify and assess salient issues that contribute to the strategies presented in the Recreation Master Plan.

- Relevant background information was gathered and reviewed about the community such as census data, planning studies, strategic plans, etc.
- Information was researched about trends and issues that will contribute to an understanding of the recreation and parks industry in rural municipalities.
- Internal M.D. of Taber information was reviewed.
- A community profile was prepared based on population growth projections, gender and age distributions, district compositions, commercial and industrial base, etc.
- Inventories of recreation facilities, programs, and services was developed.
- M.D. of Taber staff, Recreation District Board members, County Council members, and representatives of urban municipalities and community-based organizations were interviewed.
- A census survey was conducted with community residents using a mixed mode process including mail and online survey forms. Over 340 resident households participated in the survey.
- Information was gathered and reviewed from rural municipalities with Municipal District Status about recreation budgets, revenues, and mill rates. Nine rural municipalities were interviewed about recreation budgets, recreation grants, human resources, and other issuers.
- Key findings and conclusions were developed and presented to the M.D. Council for review and comment.
- Key findings were presented to the community through an online survey consultation form and open houses.

Six different technical reports were produced with information gathered in the planning process. The contents of these reports helped to inform the conclusions and recommendations presented in the M.D. of Taber Recreation Master Plan.



## Appendix B

(Statistics Canada)

Industry of Employment - Municipal District of Taber Residents		
Industry	#	%
Agriculture; forestry; fishing and hunting	1305	44
Construction	210	7
Manufacturing	165	6
Retail trade	165	6
Transportation and warehousing	160	5
Health care and social assistance	155	5
Educational services	125	4
Mining; quarrying; and oil and gas extraction	110	4
Accommodation and food services	105	4
Wholesale trade	100	3
Other services (except public administration)	95	3
Administrative and support; waste management and remediation services	75	3
Professional; scientific and technical services	55	2
Public administration	55	2
Finance and insurance	40	1
Arts; entertainment and recreation	25	1
Information and cultural industries	15	1
Real estate and rental and leasing	15	1
Utilities	10	0
Management of companies and enterprises	10	0
Total	3000	100

Source: 2016 Federal Census

Average Number of Household Members					
	MD of Taber	Town of Taber	Town of Vauxhall	Village of Barnwell	Alberta
2016	3.5	2.6	2.9	3.6	2.6
2011	3.4	2.6	3.0	3.6	2.6
2006	3.3	2.6	2.6	3.5	2.6

Source: 2016 Federal Census



Immigration					
	MD of Taber	Town of Taber	Town of Vauxhall	Village of Barnwell	Alberta
Non-immigrants	71	81	66	80	77
Before 2006	18	11	19	12	12
2006 to 2010	6	2	6	6	4
2011 to 2016	3	4	7	3	5
Non-permanent residents	2	1	2	0	2
Total	100	100	100	100	100
Country of Origin					
Mexico	72	45	92	78	2
Netherlands	14	6	0	5	2
Philippines	1	19	0	0	15
Other	13	30	8	16	82
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Source: 2016 Federal Census

Use of Time - Canadians Living in Western Prairie Provinces - 2015														
	Daily Average Time (Hours)													
	15 years and over		15 to 24 years		25 to 34 years		35 to 44 years		45 to 54 years		55 to 64 years		65 years and over	
	Hrs	%	Hrs	%	Hrs	%	Hrs	%	Hrs	%	Hrs	%	Hrs	%
Civic, religious and organizational activities <sup>1</sup>	0.2	5	F	F	0.2	7	0.1	4	0.2	6	0.2	5	0.3	5
Active sports and events <sup>2</sup>	0.5	13	0.7	18	0.4	13	0.4	15	0.4	13	0.3	7	0.4	7
Active leisure - arts and hobbies, leisure activities or writing <sup>3</sup>	0.3	8	0.4	10	0.3	10	0.2	7	0.3	10	0.3	7	0.5	9
Passive Leisure - Reading or listening to music <sup>4</sup>	0.3	8	F	F	0.1	3	0.2	7	0.3	10	0.3	7	0.8	14
Subtotal	1.3	34	1.1	28	1.0	33	0.9	33	1.2	39	1.1	26	2.0	35
Active Leisure - Use of technology <sup>3</sup>	0.6	16	1.3	33	0.6	20	0.3	11	0.3	10	0.5	12	0.5	9
Passive leisure - Watching television or videos <sup>4</sup>	1.9	50	1.6	40	1.4	47	1.5	56	1.6	52	2.6	62	3.2	56
Subtotal	2.5	66	2.9	73	2	67	1.8	67	1.9	61	3.1	74	3.7	65
Total	3.8	100	4.0	100	3.0	100	2.7	100	3.1	100	4.2	100	5.7	100

Source: Statistics Canada - General

<sup>1</sup>Civic, religious and organizational activities include voluntary work for an organisation, religious activities, voting, jury duty, coaching or administering sports.

<sup>2</sup>Active sports includes exercising, organized recreational sports, competitive sports (indoor or outdoor), outdoor sports (non-competitive) such as skiing, skating, swimming, tennis, football, baseball, outdoor activities such as fishing, hunting.

<sup>3</sup>Passive leisure includes Reading online or paper version books, periodicals, newspaper, letters, watching television or videos, listening to music or radio.

<sup>4</sup>Active leisure includes drawing, painting, crafting, playing an instrument, dancing, collecting, knitting, photography, board and card games, gambling, walking, pleasure driving, birdwatching, writing such as letters, cards, books, poems, general computer use, video games, Internet, art or music production.

## Appendix C

(Community Survey Results)

Participation in Activities									
	% Participating	% Most Likely Participated Locations							
		Local in MD	Barnwell	Taber	Vauxhall	Brooks	Lethbridge	Other	Total
<b>Average</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100</b>
Attending community festivals, events, agricultural exhibitions/rodeos	66	12	2	54	15	1	14	2	100
Going to community park/playground	56	27	5	50	5	0	8	3	100
Hiking/trail walking/walking for leisure and fitness	50	40	1	47	5	0	4	2	100
Swimming for pleasure or leisure	47	13	1	64	9	3	7	3	100
Camping	40	31	0	24	3	2	1	39	100
Going to a musical performance/concert, live theatre/opera/ballet/etc.	37	4	2	20	4	0	44	25	100
Cycling/biking	33	51	3	39	4	0	2	2	100
Involved in sports activities/programs that use indoor/outdoor ice rinks (e.g. ice hockey, ringette, figure skating, etc.)	27	13	0	60	23	0	2	2	100
Fitness - movement/stretching such as aerobics, yoga, Pilates	26	24	3	61	3	0	4	4	100
Riding all-terrain vehicles/off-road vehicles/motorized trail biking	25	52	3	18	10	0	1	17	100
Jogging or running for fitness & leisure	25	44	3	50	2	0	0	1	100
Visiting a museum, art gallery, interpretive centre	24	19	0	13	0	2	28	38	100
Involved in sports activities/programs that use indoor gymnasiums (e.g. basketball, volleyball, badminton, gymnastics, etc.)	24	12	3	55	21	0	4	5	100
Shooting (e.g. target, clay/skeet/trap, bullseye, action, long range, field, rapid fire, etc.)	24	41	1	32	13	0	6	7	100
River boating, rafting, canoeing, kayaking, etc.	24	41	0	24	10	2	2	21	100
Attending craft and hobby courses (e.g. photography, cooking, wood working, painting, quilting, pottery, genealogy, etc.)	22	13	2	60	13	0	14	0	100
Involved in sport activities/programs that use outdoor diamonds (e.g. baseball, softball, slo-pitch, T-ball, etc.)	21	28	2	41	24	0	2	4	100
Fitness training using cardio and weight training equipment	21	21	6	56	10	0	6	2	100
Swimming lessons	18	0	0	68	15	0	8	9	100
Organized socials, meals, and events for seniors (e.g. at a Seniors centre)	16	40	6	32	9	0	1	11	100
Downhill skiing	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	100
Organized dances or socials for children, youth or adults	15	26	10	44	11	0	3	5	100
Equestrian, horseback riding activities	14	22	1	56	3	1	3	14	100
Curling	14	0	0	59	36	0	1	3	100
Involved in sports activities/programs that use outdoor rectangular fields (e.g. soccer, football, rugby, Ultimate, etc.)	13	14	1	69	11	0	5	0	100
Attending personal development courses (e.g. continuing education, financial planning, creative writing, baby sitting courses, ESL, etc.)	11	13	1	40	9	0	18	19	100
4-H Clubs	9	23	0	70	6	0	0	0	100
Attending career/job skills development courses (e.g. resume writing, computer skills, leadership, business writing, etc.)	8	30	0	12	0	0	22	35	100
Archery (e.g. target, field, 3D, crossbow, flight, ski, etc.)	8	41	0	44	3	0	2	10	100
Day camps for children or youth	8	27	0	46	11	0	16	0	100
Other children/youth organizations (e.g. Scouts, Girl Guides, etc.)	8	30	3	65	0	0	0	2	100
Snowmobiling	6	22	2	12	4	0	0	60	100
Tennis, pickleball	5	0	0	48	13	0	24	15	100
Involved in performing arts programs/courses (e.g. dance, theatre, music, opera as a performer, director, etc.)	5	8	3	24	21	0	37	9	100
Involved in sports activities/programs that use indoor fields (e.g. indoor soccer, box lacrosse, etc.)	4	0	0	46	9	0	37	9	100
Cross-country skiing	3	45	9	20	0	0	0	26	100
Martial arts, such as karate, judo, tai chi	2	0	15	85	0	0	0	0	100

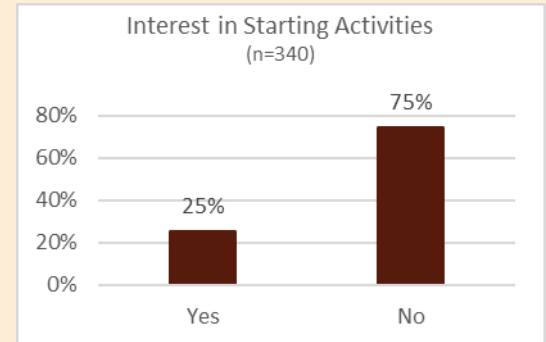
50%+

33% to <50%

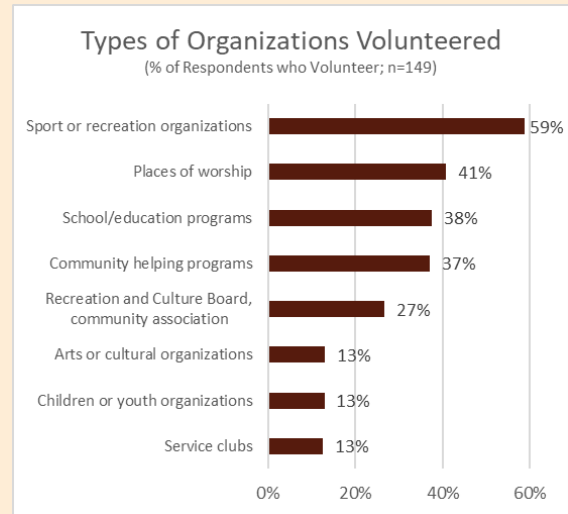
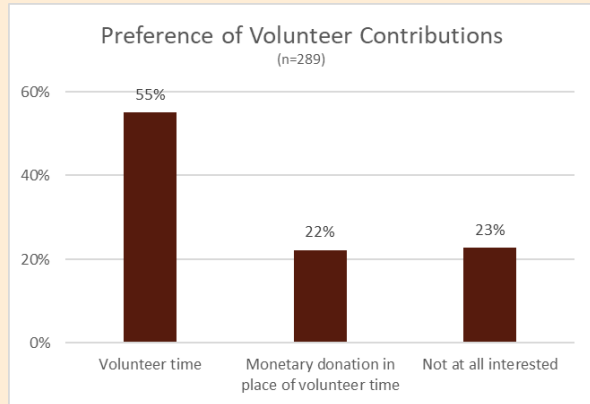
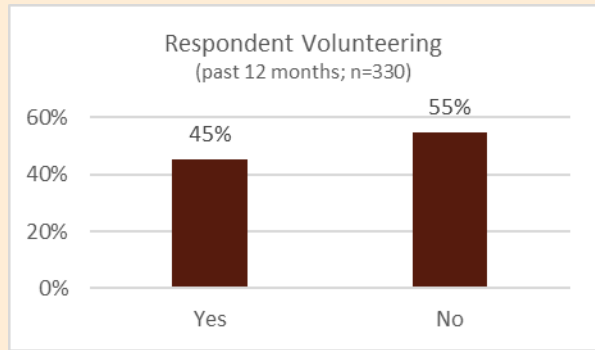
25% to <33%



Activities of Interest	
	% of Respondents (n=71)
Fitness training	16
Fitness - movement/stretching	12
Baseball/softball/slo-pitch	10
Going to a musical performance/concert, live theatre/opera/ballet/etc.	9
Involved in performing arts programs/courses	9
Soccer, football, rugby	8
Languages	8
Hockey, ice skating	7
Lacrosse	6
Swimming lessons	5
Golf	5
Organized dances or socials for children, youth or adults	4
Cycling/biking	4
Tennis, pickleball	3
Hiking/trail walking/walking for leisure and fitness	3
Shooting	2
Curling	2
Attending craft and hobby courses	2
Attend personal development courses	2
Toddler programs	2
Swimming for pleasure or leisure	2
Other (e.g. 1% or less of respondents)	9

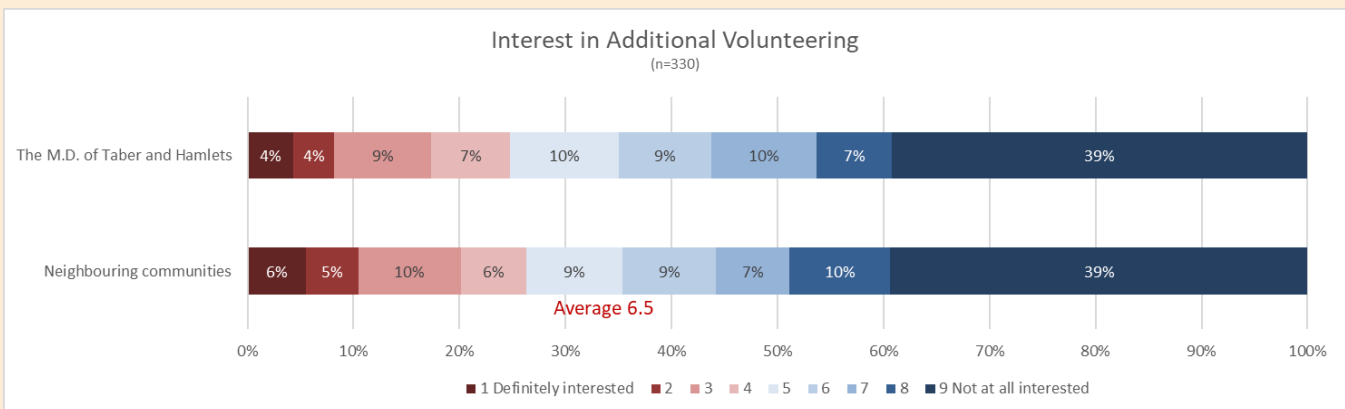


Barriers to Recreation				
Barriers		% of Respondents		% of Responses (N=728)
		All (n=333)	Interested in Starting Activity (n=85)	
Other Interests/ Priorities	Not enough time generally	39	44	18
	Already too busy with other activities	36	27	16
	Too many work commitments	23	24	10
	Too many family commitments	15	11	7
	Travel a lot	11	16	5
	Children are not old enough yet	11	17	5
Program/ Facility Accessibility	Facilities/programs/services are located too far away	12	19	6
	The right kinds of facilities/programs/services are not available	10	19	5
	Existing programs do not meet household schedule(s)	10	17	5
	Not aware of what is available/do not have enough information	8	13	4
	Current programs/facilities are full	4	11	2
	Not enough facilities/programs/services available	4	7	2
	There is nothing organized or available	3	5	1
	Facilities in poor condition	3	3	1
Social Inclusion	Activities too costly	16	27	7
Challenges	Poor health	8	8	4
Lack of Interest	Not motivated enough to get involved	8	4	3



Volunteering for Recreation and Culture In the past 12 months		
	Immigration from Mexico	
	Yes (n=31)	No (n=298)
Yes	19	48
No	81	52
Total	100	100

Volunteering for Recreation and Culture In the past 12 months								
	DIVISIONS							Total
	1 (n=55)	2 (n=56)	3 (n=65)	4 (n=45)	5 (n=31)	6 (n=40)	7 (n=34)	
Yes	49	45	26	38	71	55	50	45
No	51	55	74	62	29	45	50	55
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100



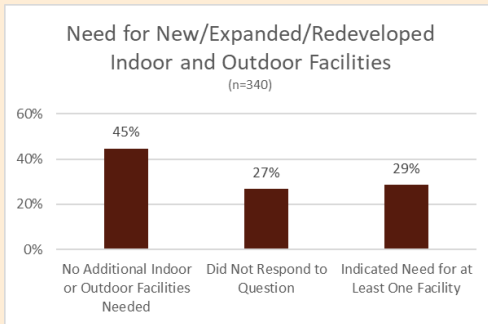


		Facilities Used							Total
		Division							
		1 [1-55]	2 [56-110]	3 [111-165]	4 [166-220]	5 [221-275]	6 [276-330]	7 [331-395]	
Population		17	17	21	13	9	12	11	100
In the M.D.	Average	17	24	21	18	7	6	6	100
	M.D. of Taber Park	19	20	26	17	5	4	10	100
	Pathway between the M.D. of Taber Park and the	21	34	16	26	1	1	1	100
	Grand Forks Park & Campground	12	8	61	16	0	2	0	100
	MD Gun/Archery Range	3	46	11	26	6	3	0	100
	Vauxhall - Lions Park (campground)	7	0	3	17	28	17	28	100
	Motocross Track	36	36	3	3	0	3	0	100
In Enchant	Average	2	1	7	2	9	68	11	100
	Enchant Municipal Park	3	5	8	8	12	44	19	100
	Enchant ball/softball diamond(s)	0	3	38	0	8	38	14	100
	Enchant Community Centre	0	0	0	0	6	75	19	100
	Enchant Golf Course	4	0	0	4	20	60	12	100
	Enchant Community Library	0	0	0	0	5	35	0	100
	Enchant Seniors Centre	0	0	0	0	0	88	13	100
	School gymnasium, sport fields, tracks, etc.	7	0	0	7	21	50	14	100
In Grassy Lake	Enchant Ice Arena	0	0	3	0	0	31	0	100
	Average	4	5	82	8	0	0	0	100
	Community Hall	2	10	75	10	0	0	4	100
	Grassy Lake ball/softball diamond(s)	0	10	77	13	0	0	0	100
	Grassy Lake Community Library	0	0	36	0	4	0	0	100
	School gymnasium, sport fields, tracks, etc.	10	0	81	10	0	0	0	100
	Gym (at community hall)	0	0	34	6	0	0	0	100
	Centennial Park Municipal Campground	0	0	34	6	0	0	0	100
In Hays	Archery Club	22	22	56	0	0	0	0	100
	Arena	0	0	80	20	0	0	0	100
	Average	2	1	0	1	87	2	7	100
	Civic Centre (community hall)	0	0	0	0	78	4	19	100
	Multipurpose Building (arena)	0	0	0	5	77	5	14	100
	Hays Campground	0	5	0	0	80	0	15	100
	Seniors Centre	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	100
	Hays Library	0	0	0	0	34	6	0	100
In Taber	Hays ball/softball diamond(s)	0	0	0	0	33	7	0	100
	School gymnasium, sport fields, track, etc.	18	0	0	0	64	0	18	100
	Hays Chip n' Putt	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	100
	Arts & Craft Society	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	100
	Average	21	32	14	21	4	4	4	100
	Aquafun Centre	22	23	19	20	4	4	3	100
	Arenas	22	28	20	20	3	3	3	100
	Walking trails in town	30	30	15	23	2	1	0	100
In Vauxhall	Auditorium	20	33	16	23	1	1	6	100
	Taber Agriplex	20	26	11	23	3	4	1	100
	Trout Pond	31	34	10	22	1	1	1	100
	Taber Public Library	24	27	21	19	5	1	2	100
	Ken McDonald Memorial Sports Complex (ball)	21	30	15	19	5	5	6	100
	Spray park	27	22	24	12	5	5	5	100
	School gymnasiums, sport fields, tracks, etc.	24	34	15	15	5	4	3	100
	Taber Golf Course	20	25	14	28	6	5	3	100
	Fitness clubs/gyms/yoga studios/martial arts stu	22	38	11	22	0	2	5	100
	Curling Club	24	32	7	17	10	5	5	100
	Taber Gymnastic Club	28	36	10	15	8	3	0	100
	Parkside Manor Seniors Centre	11	37	14	23	3	3	3	100
	Skatepark	24	36	12	20	4	4	0	100
	Taber Pistol and Revolver Club	8	75	0	8	0	8	0	100
	Taber Arts and Crafts Centre	17	17	33	17	0	8	8	100
	Taber Archery Range	18	27	0	45	0	3	0	100
In Barnwell	Tennis Courts	14	23	14	23	0	0	14	100
	Average	1	7	4	10	26	23	29	100
	Vauxhall Arena	0	17	8	11	17	21	27	100
	Ball/softball diamonds	0	13	20	2	17	24	24	100
	Outdoor pool	0	7	3	19	21	16	28	100
	Vauxhall Golf Course	3	13	0	8	23	25	30	100
	School gymnasiums, sport fields, tracks, etc.	5	5	0	16	22	16	35	100
	Curling Club	0	3	0	4	30	26	30	100
In Burnsville	Vauxhall Public Library	0	0	0	5	21	26	47	100
	Vauxhall Seniors Centre	0	0	0	0	46	38	15	100
	Tennis courts/pickleball courts	0	0	0	25	38	13	25	100
	Average	37	14	23	24	2	0	0	100
	School gymnasiums, sport fields, tracks, etc.	50	50	0	0	0	0	0	100
	Barnwell Library	54	7	23	7	4	0	0	100
	Seniors Centre	50	0	30	20	0	0	0	100
In Burnsville	Ball diamond(s)	25	13	63	0	0	0	0	100
	Skateboard park	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100
	Yoga club	41	17	17	17	7	0	0	100

More than +20% difference from population

Between +10% and up to +20% difference from population

# MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER RECREATION MASTER PLAN



Need for Additional Facilities							
	Divisions (% of Respondents)						
	1 (n=55)	2 (n=56)	3 (n=69)	4 (n=45)	5 (n=32)	6 (n=41)	7 (n=39)
No facilities needed	42	48	35	47	56	39	46
Did not answer	24	18	33	22	31	39	33
Facilities Identified	35	34	32	31	13	22	21
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Need for Facilities							
	Family Life Stage (% of Respondents)						
	Young Adults (n=16)	Early Nest (n=75)	Nest with Youth (n=58)	Late Nest (n=19)	Mid-aged Adults	Seniors (n=56)	Total (n=289)
No facilities needed	75	33	41	21	46	46	42
Did not answer	6	15	22	42	31	45	27
Facilities Identified	19	52	36	37	23	9	31
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

New/Expanded/Redeveloped Facilities Needed (n=37)					
	% of Responses				
	% of Responses	Local area/ community	Barnwell	Taber	Vauxhall
Totals	100	26	3	60	11
Trails/pathways	13	7	1	4	1
Upgrade/more Taber Arena/rinks	11	0	0	11	0
Indoor soccer (box lacrosse) facility	11	1	0	9	1
Recreation/multi-use centre (pools, fitness gym, studios, rinks, indoor track, indoor fields, etc.)	7	0	0	7	0
Indoor tracks	7	0	0	6	1
Fitness gym	5	2	1	0	2
Ice rink	5	4	1	0	0
Theatre/performing arts centre	4	0	0	4	0
Spraypark	3	3	0	0	0
Bike park	3	3	0	0	0
Repair to Vauxhall arena/curling/community centre	2	0	0	0	2
More campgrounds	2	0	0	2	0
Playground	2	1	0	0	1
Bus service	1	0	0	0	1
Swimming pool/new pool	1	0	0	1	1
Relocate/reno Agriplex	1	0	0	1	0
Outdoor swimming pool	1	0	0	1	0
Bouldering/climbing wall	1	0	0	1	0
Daycare facilities (affordable)	1	0	0	1	1
Reunion centre	1	1	0	0	0
Trout pond to be swimmable	1	0	0	1	0
Skeet trap range	1	1	0	0	0
Racquetball centre	1	0	0	1	0
More seniors activities	1	0	0	1	0
More plug ins at campground	1	1	0	0	0
More available seating	1	1	0	0	0
Indoor tennis	1	0	0	1	0
Fishing docks	1	1	0	0	0
Drive in movie theatre	1	0	0	1	0
Yoga	1	1	0	0	0
Improve diamonds	1	0	0	1	0
Improve showers at pool	1	0	0	1	0
Better facility for horseback riding	1	0	0	1	0
Indoor baseball facility	1	0	0	1	0
Mom & tot classes	1	1	0	0	0
Youth activity centre	1	0	0	1	0
More swimming lessons	1	0	0	1	0
Indoor playground	1	0	0	1	0
Cheaper gymnasiums	1	0	0	1	0
Improve stage at MD of Taber Park	1	0	0	1	0
Irrigation/agriculture Museum	1	0	0	1	0
Movie theatre	1	0	0	1	0
Better river access for boats	<1	<1	0	0	0
Fitness studio	<1	0	0	<1	0
Lawn bowling	<1	0	0	<1	0
More early childhood development programs	<1	0	<1	0	0
Pickleball courts	<1	0	0	0	<1
Seniors centre	<1	0	0	<1	0
Tennis courts	<1	0	<1	0	0

New/Expanded/Redeveloped Facilities Needed		
	Immigrated from Mexico (%)	
	Yes (n=10)	No (87)
Fitness gym	23	4
Ice rink	23	3
More campgrounds	23	1
Trails/pathways	23	11
Improve diamonds	8	0
	100	19

Willingness to Pay More Property Taxes				
	% of Respondents			
	Very active (n=56)	Somewhat active (n=144)	Not very active (n=65)	Not at all active (n=25)
Yes	42	27	17	4
No	58	73	83	96
Total	100	100	100	100



## Appendix D

(Example of Recreation Grant Application)

### Recreation Grant Application Form - Example

#### Organization:

Organization Name

Mailing Address, including postal code

Facility Location (if applicable)

Society Registration No. (if applicable)

#### Contact Information:

Contact Name and Title

Address, including postal code (if different from location)

Phone Number

e-mail address

Is your organization a:

- ☐ Not-for-profit society  
☐ Not-for-profit company  
☐ Other (specify):

- ☐ For profit company/corporation  
☐ A government agency (e.g. municipality, NGO, etc.)

#### Purpose of Application:

- ☐ Support to Rural Facilities and Amenities Operating Grant  
☐ Rural Community Facility and Amenity Capital Assistance Grant  
☐ Recreation and Culture Board  
☐ Cemeteries Operating Grant  
☐ Use of Municipal Reserves Fund  
☐ Other (specify):

Amount of Funding Requested: \$

Expected Start Date:

Expected Completion Date:

Have you received previous funding from M.D. of Taber? ☐ Yes ☐ No  
(if yes, please explain)

#### Description:

Please provide a description of the project/facility/program/service purpose (mandate/objectives/etc.).

Please indicate the type of activities that M.D. of Taber residents will use/participate in at your project/facility/program.

Please explain how the project/facility/program/service will benefit M.D. of Taber residents.

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Please describe who the project/facility/program/service will serve (please include descriptions of all users/participants and provide estimates).

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If other organizations already provide similar programs, services, or facilities, how will your project/facility/program/service benefit M.D. of Taber residents?

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What other organizations, if any, do you expect will help to fund your project/facility/program/service.

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Please choose the description that most likely applies to your project/facility/program/service. Users/participants will be:

- ☐ Members of the general public
- ☐ Primarily members of the general public, but also members who have paid a membership fee
- ☐ Primarily members who have paid a membership fee, but also members of the general public
- ☐ Members who have paid a membership fee
- ☐ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate any restrictions/limitations that may affect M.D. of Taber residents to use your project/facility/program/service.

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Please indicate (estimate) the number of M.D. of Taber residents that will use/participate in the project/facility/program/service (individual users/participants): \_\_\_\_\_

(If a facility) Please indicate (estimate) the number of times your facility will be rented rented or used for events on an annual basis: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate (estimate):  
Total hours (annual) that volunteers will provide to your organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Total hours (annual) that M.D. of Taber residents will volunteer at your organization: \_\_\_\_\_



## Budget Information

Please provide the following budget information (including capital requirements and expenditures, if applicable).

Operational Budget	Capital Budget
<b>REVENUES:</b>  <u>Unearned revenue</u> Anticipated Funds from the M.D. of Taber \$ _____ Other Grants \$ _____ Casinos/Bingos \$ _____ Fund raising/donations \$ _____ Other (specify) \$ _____  <u>Earned revenue</u> Admissions/Fees \$ _____ Membership fees \$ _____ Program registrations \$ _____ Facility rentals \$ _____ Equipment rentals \$ _____ Food and beverage/concession \$ _____ Other (specify) \$ _____  <b>TOTAL REVENUES</b> \$ _____  <b>EXPENSES:</b>  Employee wages/benefits \$ _____ Program expenses \$ _____ Communications (phone, Internet, etc.) \$ _____ Utilities (power, water, gas) \$ _____ Insurance \$ _____ Custodial expenses (including supplies) \$ _____ Rent/lease costs \$ _____ Repairs/maintenance \$ _____ Life cycle costs \$ _____ Contracted services \$ _____ Other (specify) \$ _____  <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b> \$ _____	<b>SOURCES OF FUNDS:</b>  Anticipated Funds from the M.D. of Taber \$ _____ Grants from other municipalities \$ _____ Provincial grants \$ _____ Federal grants \$ _____ Casinos/Bingos \$ _____ Fund raising/donations \$ _____ Naming rights \$ _____ Debt \$ _____ Other (specify) \$ _____  <b>TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDS</b> \$ _____  <b>CAPITAL COSTS:</b>  Planning/engineering \$ _____ Contracted services \$ _____ Construction costs \$ _____ Land costs \$ _____ Equipment costs for construction \$ _____ Furniture, fixtures, and equipment \$ _____ Permits/legal \$ _____ Other (specify) \$ _____  <b>TOTAL CAPITAL COSTS</b>

### Please ensure that you have included the following with your application:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> List of current Executive/Board members<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Financial statements from previous year (up to past 3 years)<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Copy of organization's minutes with the motion to submit this application<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of liability insurance (minimum \$2,000,000 liability)<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of Workers Compensation<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Schedule of prices/fees that will be charged to the M.D. of Taber residents to use programs, services, and facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Feasibility study(ies)<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Construction quotes<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Building permits |
|--|--|



