

7

Parks, Recreation, Culture & Heritage

Goal 7: Hope's parks, recreational, and cultural offerings and amenities:

- Offer diverse year-round opportunities;
- Connect places and natural areas through a system of active-use trails; and
- Create opportunities that enhance the economic health and social well-being of the community.

Why is this Important?

The availability and quality of public open space, parks, and public and private leisure facilities have a significant effect on community **livability**. The District's abundant natural features, including mountains, lakes, and beautiful scenery, also contribute to our quality of life and support a range of outdoor activities.

Recreation and leisure is essential to our health and well-being. Opportunities for physical activity, social connections, and enjoyment for all ages and abilities helps to keep residents and visitors happy and healthy.

District Trends

Parks

Hope has 496 hectares (1,225 acres) of parkland. The District has designated enough land for parks and recreation to last well into the future; however, most of this land is organized in very large areas and little is set aside for smaller neighbourhood and community parks. As a result, not all park needs are currently being met.

Trails

Hope has 63 kilometres of existing trails. A number of these trails are connected to "Experience the Fraser," a region-wide parks and trail system that connects Hope to the Salish Sea. "Experience the Fraser" is supported by various levels of government, including the Province, Fraser Valley Regional District, and Metro Vancouver.

There is a need to formalize and extend Hope's existing trail system to link various neighbourhoods to each other, to the downtown, and to other regional and national trail networks. About 13 kilometres of existing popular trail segments are informal and cross private lands.

Recreation

The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) operates the Hope Recreation Complex. This includes an aquatic centre, fitness centre, arena, fitness and swim lessons, youth and children summer camps, sports camps, and first aid training.

The District aims to provide a network of recreational facilities to allow residents and tourists to enjoy all that Hope has to offer. The current system of public services and facilities meets much of the community's current needs for civic, cultural, and recreational uses. However, as the population grows, the District will need to expand and create new facilities to meet the needs of new residents.

Culture and Heritage

Hope has a rich history, including Stó:lō communities, the gold rush, and Japanese internment during World War II. In 1916, the Great Northern Railway built the Hope Station House. In 1985, the building was moved to the intersection of Highway 1 and Highway 3. The last train station of its kind, the Station House is currently being renovated to support a community arts centre.

In the 1940s, over 2,600 people lived in Tashme, the Japanese internment camp 22 kilometres east of Hope. The community was dismantled in 1946. The Tashme Friendship Garden in Downtown Hope serves as a reminder of the camp and its residents.

Today, the District hosts to a number of festivals and cultural events, including Brigade Days, Hope Flight Test, Canada Day celebrations at Memorial Park, and other related programming led by the Hope & District Arts Council. Other highlights include the volunteer-run Art Machine Gallery and Studio, ongoing workshops, summer concerts held in Memorial Park, and Winterfest celebration.

District Role

To encourage local community arts, culture, and heritage initiatives, the District can:

- Establish and use a community events fund to support individuals, groups, and organizations in hosting community events;
- Host events and festivals in partnership with local organizations to showcase various traditions and cultures;
- Display art in public spaces;
- Discourage vandalism through youth education, timely maintenance, and other initiatives that promote civic pride; and
- Collaborate with arts, culture, and heritage organizations on specific projects.

Objectives & Policies

Objective 7.1 **To meet the park and recreational needs of existing and future residents.**

Policy 7.1.1 In accordance with s. 510 of the *Local Government Act R.S. 2015*, the District will require dedication of land through development, including linear parks as trails, or cash in lieu of park dedication. Proposed dedications of parklands that are isolated and do not add to park and trail connectivity will be discouraged.

Policy 7.1.2 Pursuant to s. 510 (2) of the *Local Government Act*, in the event that the area for parkland dedication is less than 5% of the total area to be subdivided, the District of Hope may require land or cash in lieu.

Policy 7.1.3 Designate sufficient parkland, open space, and trail corridors to meet the District's anticipated future requirements.

Policy 7.1.4 Integrate park planning and design with broader community planning initiatives related to land use, housing, transportation, social connections, and community amenities, including:

- a) Public gathering places for community celebration, contemplation, social gathering, and/or civic engagement;
- b) Public art; and
- c) Aboriginal culture, immigrant culture, the environment, local heritage, and veterans.

Policy 7.1.5 Promote a range of affordable and accessible recreational programs for all four seasons.

Policy 7.1.6 Identify facilities and deliver programs that meet the specific activity and **accessibility** needs of youth and seniors.

Objective 7.2 **To provide civic and institutional spaces and buildings that:**

- **Are accessible,**
- **Are conveniently located,**
- **Provide useful community gathering spaces,**
- **Incorporate integrated sustainability practices, and**
- **Incorporate learning and culture.**

Objective 7.3 To use green corridors effectively to provide opportunities for walking and cycling and promote healthy and active living.

- Policy 7.3.1 Continue to expand the path and trail system over time by linking to residential subdivisions and connecting to schools, recreation facilities, parks, and the downtown.
- Policy 7.3.2 At the time of subdivision, seek opportunities to connect public trails and/or parks. The access corridor may be in addition to, and outside, any riparian management area requirements.
- Policy 7.3.3 The District may consider the acquisition of all or a portion of properties in high-priority access areas where it is unlikely the required land can be obtained in less expensive ways in the desired timeframe.

Objective 7.4 To promote Hope as an outdoor recreation destination based on its natural assets.

- Policy 7.4.1 Identify and protect areas with potential for future parks, recreation, and open space uses.
- Policy 7.4.2 Create a range of parks, open spaces, and trails that accommodate a wide range of passive and active recreation uses for residents and visitors.
- Policy 7.4.3 Develop a Parks, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan to meet current and future needs for parks, open spaces, and trails and to connect communities and destinations throughout Hope.
- Policy 7.4.4 Encourage enhanced access to the Fraser River waterfront for park and recreational uses.
- Policy 7.4.5 Identify and work to protect locations with scenic viewpoints of the mountains, rivers, and valleys to enhance Hope's attractiveness for residents and tourists.
- Policy 7.4.6 Work with the Province to enhance the tourist potential of the Coquihalla Canyon Provincial Park.
- Policy 7.4.7 Preserve and maintain Memorial Park in accordance with the the *Provincial Crown Grant* dated March 18, 1964.

Policy 7.4.8 Support the concept of an aerial tramway on Mount Hope, proposed ski facilities near Jones Lake, and other similar developments to take advantage of the potential tourist opportunities this would bring to Hope.

Objective 7.5 To celebrate arts and local culture.

Policy 7.5.1 Work with Hope & District Arts Council to develop a public art program to support local artists and enhance public buildings, streetscapes, and other public spaces. Where appropriate, incorporate public art in commercial and multi-family developments.

Policy 7.5.2 Work with Hope & District Arts Council to encourage children and youth to become involved in the arts.

Policy 7.5.3 Encourage the display of public art in Downtown Hope and other suitable locations with a focus on wood carvings with wildlife and natural themes.

Policy 7.5.4 Support local artists in the creation of distinctive art works for public spaces that build on Hope's scenic attributes.

Policy 7.5.5 Work with AdvantageHOPE and Hope & District Arts Council to promote festivals and other events designed to enhance tourism, cultural vibrancy, community building, social cohesion, and tolerance.

Policy 7.5.6 Support Hope & District Arts Council and student organizations, at their request, to ask University of Fraser Valley and other institutions to increase local post-secondary arts programming.

Policy 7.5.7 Support local arts organizations in finding appropriate facilities for artistic expression, performance, and display, when possible.

Objective 7.6	To further public awareness of the area’s rich First Nations history and culture.
Policy 7.6.1	Partner with Stó:lō and other local First Nations to protect the region’s anthropological heritage and display the natural history and cultural development of the area. The Stó:lō Heritage Policy will be used to guide appropriate treatment of culturally significant sites within S’ólh Téméxw, and the region-wide S’ólh Téméxw Use Plan will guide the use and management of land and resources within S’ólh Téméxw to protect Stó:lō cultural values.
Policy 7.6.2	Continue to integrate awareness and educational opportunities, in parks, public spaces, public art, and interpretive signage developed in partnership with First Nation communities.
Objective 7.7	To celebrate and educate people about current First Nation culture and language.
Policy 7.7.1	Promote First Nations art and language through public art, community celebrations, festivals, and other programs developed in partnership with First Nation communities.
Objective 7.8	To strengthen relationships between the District of Hope and local First Nations in the spirit of collaboration, recognition, and reconciliation.
Policy 7.8.1	Where feasible, invite First Nation communities to be involved in economic development, environmental management, energy and climate, and community health and wellbeing initiatives.
Objective 7.9	To further public awareness of the Japanese Internment Camp at Tashme during the Second World War.
Policy 7.9.1	Support educational programs that contribute to community awareness and understanding of the cultural history of the former internment of Japanese-Canadians in World War II.

Objective 7.10 **To remember and celebrate our history.**

Policy 7.10.1 Encourage conservation and support the retention of significant heritage buildings and other historic resources under the British Columbia *Heritage Conservation Act*.



Photo Credit: AdvantageHOPE