

# Recreation & Leisure

## Supporting the active Rossland lifestyle

### Where are we now?

The following provides a snapshot of the current state of recreation and leisure in the community:

- There are abundant opportunities for recreation and leisure pursuits in Rossland, including an outdoor swimming pool, tennis courts, a skating arena, a curling rink, a golf course, cross-country ski trails, bird watching, hiking and mountain biking trails and downhill skiing. There are also numerous arts and cultural events.
- The Kootenay Columbia Trails Society manages 32 trails covering 170 kms and caters to hikers, mountain bikers, horse riders, cross-country skiers and snowshoers in the Rossland area.
- Snowmobiling is very popular in Rossland, both as a sport and as a vehicle to get to backcountry destinations for skiing and snowboarding. There is a local chapter of SnoGoers, and guided-snowmobile tours are available through local guiding companies.
- Red Mountain Resort offers opportunities for downhill and cross-country skiing in the winter, and mountain biking in the summer.
- Redstone Alpine Golf Resort, formerly the nine-hole Rossland Golf Course, will add ten more holes and is being developed as a resort community.
- The Black Jack Cross Country Ski Club is located immediately outside the City boundary. The club has over 600 members, maintains an extensive network of trails and attracts visitors to the region for both events and skiing.



### Where do we want to be?

The community's Desired Future for 'recreation and leisure' in 2030 is described in the following statement:

*The town promotes and supports a healthy and active population and this is reinforced by a community that embraces a balance between work and play. Rossland is a unique destination for year-round outdoor alpine recreation. Residents and visitors of all ages and abilities engage in high quality, diverse recreational opportunities while respecting and protecting the surrounding natural environment. The conservation and sustainable use of green spaces and development and maintenance of an extensive network of multi-use trails connects both people and the community with nature. Accessible, well-maintained playing fields and indoor recreation facilities complement the range of outdoor experiences. The community hosts a number of arts and culture events.*

<i>End-state Goals for 2030</i>	<i>Sustainability Task Force Situation Assessment</i>
<b><i>End-state Goal #1: A healthy and active population is engaged in year-round recreation and leisure.</i></b>	<i>Currently, Rossland has a very active population and the community is well on its way to achieving this Goal and the trend is in the right direction. In the longer term, the shift in recreational pursuits and preferences of an aging population may influence success.</i>
<b><i>End-state Goal #2: A world-class network of designated, connected, accessible, and well-maintained trails exists throughout the community.</i></b>	<i>Currently, the Rossland area has a well-developed, extensive network of marked trails, including hiking, biking, and cross-country ski trails. Rossland is also regarded as a mountain biking 'mecca'. In the longer term, completing gaps in the trail system, trail maintenance, and continuing the support for volunteer efforts may influence success. Other challenges include access through private property, liability (e.g. over the former mines and on private property), and conflicting uses due to development.</i>
<b><i>End-state Goal #3: Publicly accessible green spaces are well-distributed within the community, and allow residents and visitors of all ages to interact with nature and to experience the splendour of the mountain environment in different seasons.</i></b>	<i>Currently, Rossland has a moderate level of publicly accessible greenspace, primarily through the trail system, and progress is being made. Some of the issues concern conflicts between trail and greenspace users and people not cleaning up after their dogs on some trails.</i>
<b><i>End-state Goal #4: Red Mountain Resort, Redstone Alpine Golf Resort and other developments, provide opportunities for people to live, work, and play.</i></b>	<i>The continuing development at the base of Red Mountain and Redstone Alpine Golf Resort are creating opportunities for people to live, work, and play in Rossland. Some of the long term challenges include a lack of affordability in the new developments, competition from other resorts, and threats from border closures and climate change impacts on weather patterns.</i>
<b><i>End-state Goal #5: Indoor and outdoor recreation and leisure facilities are located within the community, are well-maintained, family-friendly, and meet the needs of residents and visitors alike.</i></b>	<i>Currently, Rossland has a wide variety of recreation facilities that surpass facilities in other communities of a similar size, partially due to the high level of volunteerism to maintain the facilities. However, some of the indoor facilities are aging and are not as well maintained or upgraded.</i>

## How will we get there?

Rossland will foster the active Rossland lifestyle by employing the following Strategic Directions:

- Recognizing that recreation in its broadest sense is a key element of the Rossland lifestyle, a major attraction for visitors and new residents, and a driver of the local economy
- Conducting an inventory of recreational/leisure facilities and amenities, including usage rates, status, deficiencies and potential opportunities
- Developing a program to protect and enhance recreational and leisure opportunities
- Ensuring green space and trails corridors are secured, including connectivity linkages between neighbourhoods and between the core and peripheral resort neighbourhoods
- Creating an attractive and accessible downtown core that serves as a gathering place
- Exploring the feasibility of a funicular connection from lower Rossland to downtown to improve accessibility and encourage a walkable town theme
- Building on the 'town news network' concept to broadcast happenings and events around town
- Encouraging lower costs for local users of resort facilities to maintain community accessibility
- Strengthening the community recreation services, and arts and culture events and publicizing opportunities through other organizations

Appendices C, D and E outline the Strategic Actions that have been identified to help Rossland achieve its Vision for 2030.



Photo credit Brooke Brugnani