

Arborg Bifrost-Riverton Recreation Master Plan Stakeholder Meetings

October 13th and 15th, 2020
November 2nd and 3rd, 2020

Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **Recreation Master Plan Purpose**
- **Background Study Findings**
- **Facility and Program Inventories**
- **Trends in Rural Recreation**
- **Public Engagement Approach**
- **Recreation Master Plan Outline**
- **Next Steps**
- **Discussion**



Introductions



Landmark Planning & Design is a local, employee-owned land use planning firm that has undertaken projects throughout Manitoba for rural and urban municipalities, planning districts, and private developers.

Our main areas of practice include:

- Land Use Planning
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Development Approvals
- Planning Studies

We've been retained by the *Town of Arborg* and *Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton* to lead a comprehensive **Recreation Master Planning** process.

Recreation Master Plan Purpose

- Leisure and recreation activities are an essential component of any community and are fundamental to quality of life.
- Such activities play an important role in strengthening a sense of community, promoting active and healthy lifestyles, attracting and integrating new residents, and in the overall quality of life for residents.
- Arborg and Bifrost-Riverton are blessed with a wide range of quality recreational facilities and programming.
- **The purpose of the Recreation Master Plan is to provide Arborg and Bifrost-Riverton with comprehensive strategies for meeting the current and future recreation needs of the community.**
- Over the next decade, the Plan will help prioritize capital expenditures, outline an implementation framework, define future direction in terms of community recreation service delivery, and perhaps most importantly, assist the municipal Councils in decision-making as it relates to recreation facilities, spaces, and programming.



Recreation Master Plan Tasks

Task 1: Project initiation with the Steering Committee

Task 2: Background research, trends and analysis

Task 3: Inventory – Facilities and Programs

Task 4: Stakeholder and Community Engagement

Task 5: Recreation Needs Assessment and Prioritization

Task 6: Recreation Facility Condition Assessment

Task 7: Recreation Delivery System and Volunteer Retention Assessment

Task 8: Recommendations, implementation, and funding

Task 9: Draft Recreation Master Plan

Task 10: Final Recreation Master Plan



Preliminary Background Study Findings



Background Study

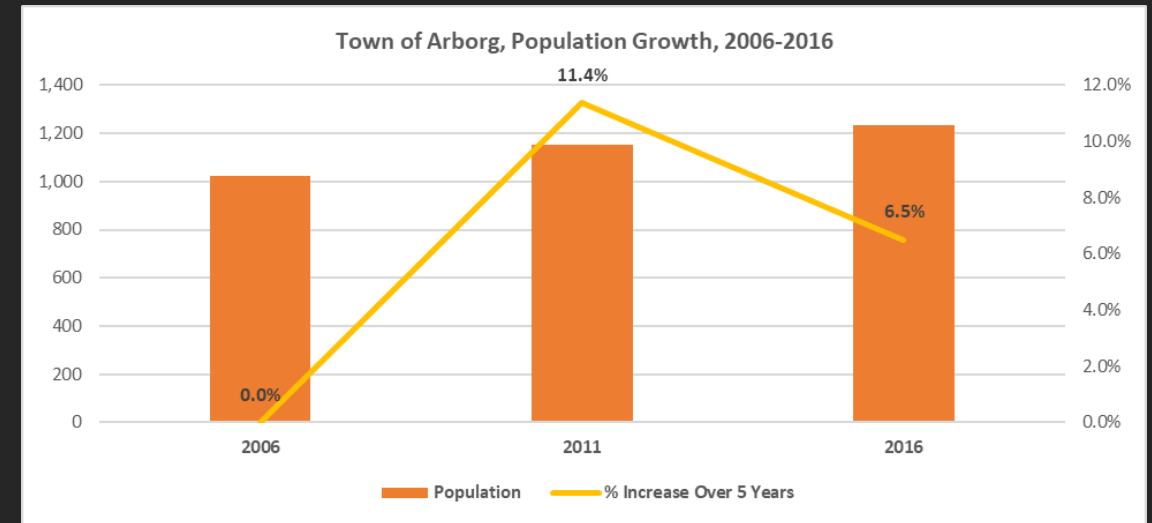
In order to set the context for the recreation study, the project team is currently finalizing a background study, which looks at:

- Local Demographics, Socio-economics, and population trends
- Recent Trends in Rural Recreation
- Existing Policy Context
 - Development Plan
 - Zoning By-law and other Municipal By-laws
 - Provincial Legislation and Policy
- Previous Studies / Existing Documents
 - Age-Friendly Arborg and Riverton
 - Arborg Bifrost-Riverton Sustainable Community Action Plan
 - Recreation Commission policy manuals
 - Use of School Facilities Agreements



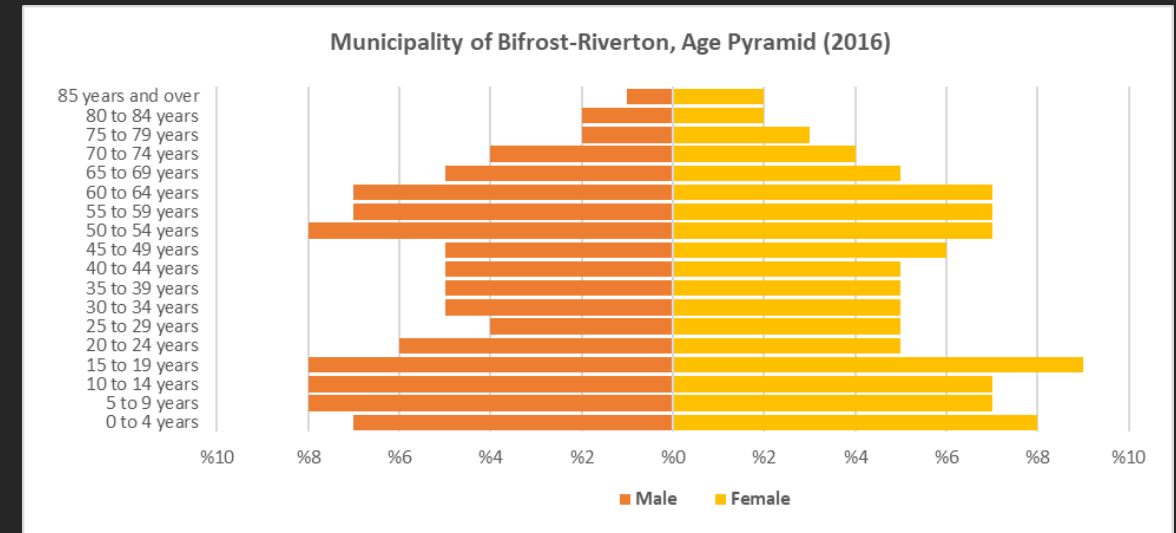
Demographics – Arborg

- Arborg's population has grown slowly but steadily over the past two decades, from 959 residents in 2001 to 1,222 residents in 2016 (an annual compounded growth rate of 1.6%)
- Relatively balanced age profile, with all age cohorts well-represented
- An aging population, which is well-served by several services and accommodation options for seniors
- Median age of 41.0 in 2016



Demographics – Bifrost-Riverton

- Bifrost-Riverton’s population has been slowly declining over the past two decades
- The amalgamated municipality’s population declined by 3.9% between 2011 and 2016
- The two largest population cohorts in the municipality are those under the age of 20, and those in the 50- to 65-year old range
- The rural areas of the municipality have a significant youth population, while the community of Riverton skews older
- The median age was 38.6 years in 2016, almost identical to that of the Manitoba (38.3)



Existing Studies

- Age-Friendly Studies in both communities (as well as the Sustainable Community Action Plan) revealed several shared themes, including:
 - The need to connect seniors and youth
 - The need for better pedestrian connections and crosswalks
 - The need to increase volunteer recognition
 - The need to better advertise events and activities
 - The need for open space amenities, including sidewalks, benches, and lighting
 - The need for additional parks and/or greenspace

Strengths and Opportunities: Housing

Strengths

Continuum of Care

Arborg offers a large range of assistive, supportive, and continuing care options. Older adults could benefit from home care services to bridge the gap between independent and assisted living.

There should be a continuum of care in a community, providing independent, assisted, and long-term care spaces.

Public Health Agency of Canada, 2009



Figure 12: Seniors' housing, Arborg, MB

There are 16 units of 55+ independent living at the House of Hope (Figure 12), 16 units each of supportive housing and assisted living at Mary Thorsen Estates, and 40 beds at the Arborg Personal Care Home (Interlake RHA, 2010), as well as additional units at Sunrise Lodge North and South (Figure 13). Although there is concern over a 30 person waiting list at Mary Thorsen Estates, Arborg is clearly including seniors in local housing plans.

Quality of homes and lots

The homes in Arborg are generally very well maintained. Lot sizes in Arborg are typically quite generous, providing an opportunity for optional secondary suites (Figure 14).



Figure 13: Designated seniors' housing, Arborg, MB



Figure 14: Single family homes, Arborg, MB

12 Age-Friendly Arborg

18

11 PARKS AND RECREATION

Arborg-Bifrost Riverton offers numerous recreation, leisure, and sport facilities and programming. Activities and events are tailored to meet a diverse range of interests and needs. Programming includes the Age Friendly Club, baseball, church choir, 4x4 figure skating, fitness club, high school sports, hockey, horse club, rod and gun club, soccer, summer day camp, swim program, Ukrainian dancing and more.

WALKING TRAILS

Community walking paths are located in both Arborg and Riverton. The Interlake River Trail in Arborg follows the north shore of the Interlake River. At approximately 700m in length, the town has plans to extend the path. Two bridges, one on each side of the community, will be installed to allow pedestrians cross the Interlake River. In addition, a marked community walking path is located in Arborg and on the old rail bed in Riverton.

PUBLIC BEACHES AND CAMPGROUNDS

There are three public beaches and two campgrounds in the region. Gull Harbour Campground and Sunset Beach is located 56 km north east of Riverton and features two beaches, 214 campsites (unserviced and serviced), tennis courts, an amphitheater, and covered wood lot. The nearby Gull Harbour Marina provides fuel and concessions. Located on the west shore of Lake Winnipeg, Inawaka Provincial Park has a small campground and beach. North of Riverton, the Riverton Sand Islands consist of three small islands extending between Riverton and Hecla Island. During low water years, the closest island is connected to the mainland by a sandbar. Visitors will see Ring-billed Gulls, Common Terns, and Piping Plovers.

WINTER RECREATION

Winter recreation activities include skating, cross-country skiing, and ice fishing, and snowmobiling. A skating rink and skating path is cleared on the Interlake river in Arborg and tobogganing is popular on the Interlake River bank. The Arborg Nordic Ski Club has a membership of approximately 22 skiers. The club coordinates ski outings to local trails, and instruction in skiing techniques and waxing.

The Interlake Snow Trackers are the active snowmobile club for the region. The club is a not for profit recreational club and maintains approximately 600 km of snowmobile trails around Arborg, Hecla and Riverton. The club also owns and maintains seven warm up shelters in the region. Sno-passes are required to ride the Interlake Snow Trackers trails. The fees from the sno-passes help fund trail grooming and maintenance.

ARBORG-BIFROST PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

The Arborg-Bifrost Parks and Recreation Commission maintains facilities for recreational activities and assists in the coordination of events and programs in the community. Facilities include the Aquatic Centre, Arborg and District Arena, Community Centre, and the curling rink. The Aquatic Centre is an outdoor facility, open from the beginning of June to the September long weekend. The curling rink and arena is open from October to March and the community centre is open year round. The arena and community centre is available for weddings, socials, and conferences, serving as a community hub for

WSP
No. 161-02769-00-07
September 2017

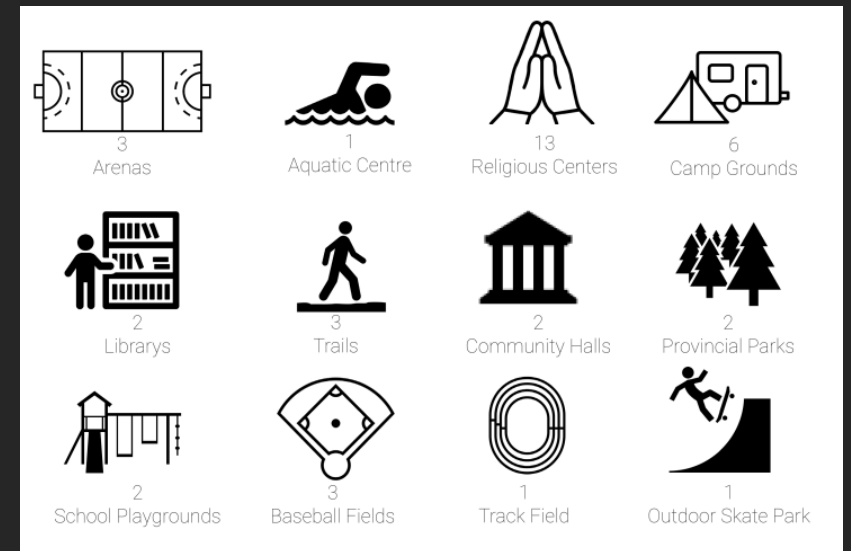
Arborg-Bifrost Riverton Sustainable Community Action Plan
Arborg-Bifrost Riverton CDC

Facilities Inventory

The inventory of recreation facilities and open spaces features information about each asset, including:

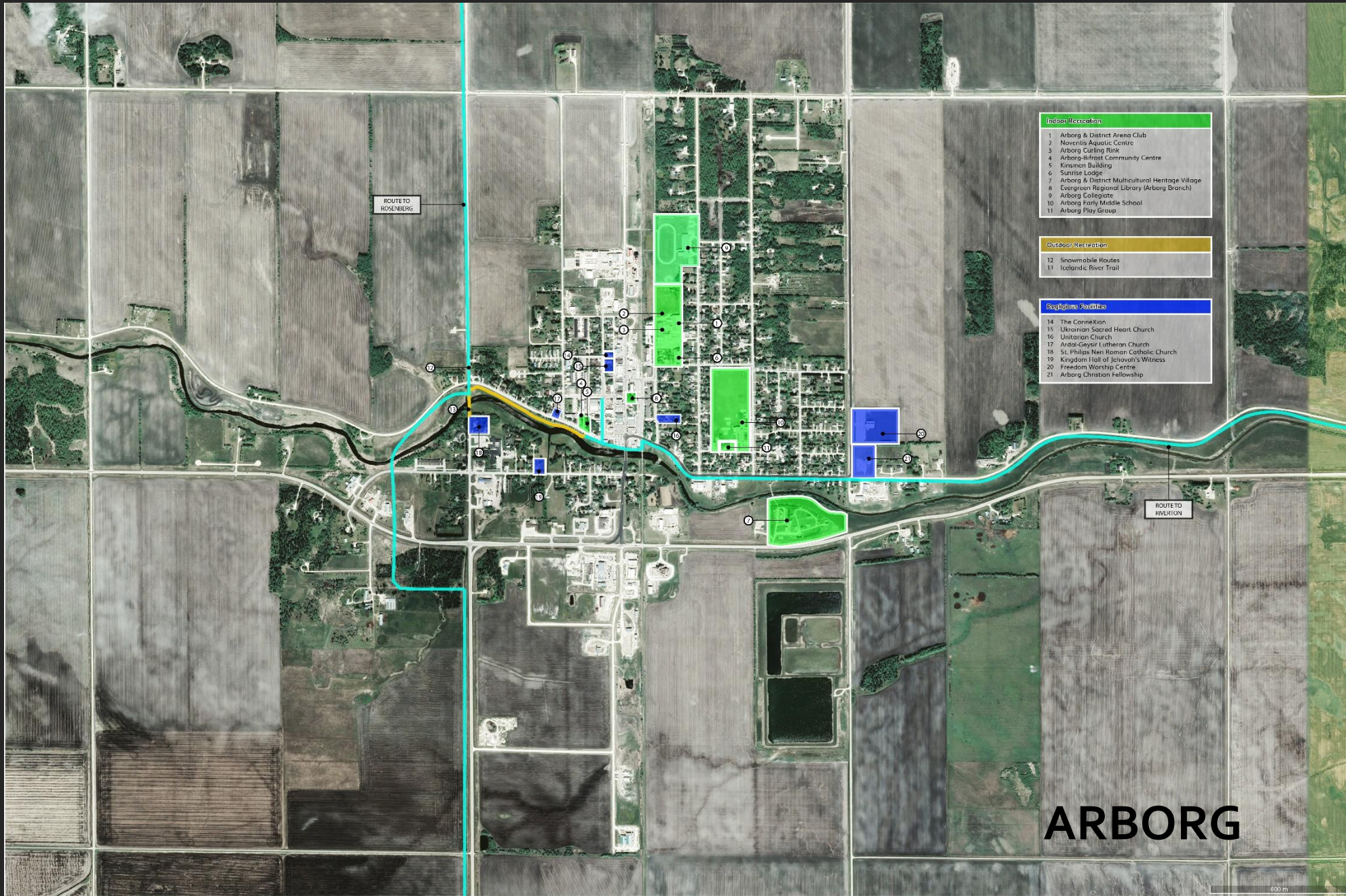
- Type (e.g. building, religious facility, open space)
- Location (mapped)
- Area and capacity
- Ownership (e.g. municipal, private, school)
- Operation and uses
- Age and general physical condition
- Upgrades and maintenance needs

The inventory, in both spreadsheet and map format, will help feed into the recreation plan recommendations.



Arborg Bifrost-Riverton Recreation Master Plan - Facilities Inventory

Facility Name	Type	Amenities	Demographics / Users	Location	Year Built	Season	Funding / Financing	Owner/Operator
Arborg & District Arena	Arena	NHL standard size artificial ice surface Large, heated indoor viewing area Rink side seating (800 spectators) Full commercial kitchen 6 Large dressing rooms with showers Meeting room Satellite TV Activity Room	Arborg Minor Hockey (ages 5-17 years) Arborg Skating Club (ages 3 - 17) Recreation Hockey League Arborg Ice Dawgs Junior B Hockey Club Public skating Floor hockey Hockey with Reims (ages 4-7) 40+ Recreation Hockey Baseball / Soccer Practice (April)	Arborg 436 Crosstown Ave	2004	Winter (October to April)		
Riverton Memorial Arena	Arena	1 rink 4 dressing rooms New LED lights Not insulated (not heated during winter) New condenser installed recently Reggie Leach	Various Hockey Clubs (all ages) Figure Skating	Riverton 99 Main Street	1949 (Original) 1982 (Addition)	Winter		
Hnausa Beach Provincial Campground	Campground	5 Basic Sites 36 Electrical Sites	All ages and abilities	Bifrost-Riverton		May to September		
Unitarian Camp	Campground	Lodge with large kitchen Dining hall Large Deck Bathrooms Lake Front Camping		Hnausa				Managed by Harold Danielson
Riverton Sand Islands	Campground	3 small islands extending between Riverton and Hecla	All ages and abilities	Riverton		Summer		
Bifrost-Riverton Campground	Campground	Fully serviced 15 sites, 8 for large campers	All ages and abilities	Bifrost-Riverton		Summer		
Arborg & District Multicultural Heritage Village Old Town Campground	Campground	22 electrically serviced campsites Picnic Tables and Fire Pits Men's & Women's Toilets, Showers and a dumpsite St. Nicholas Parish Hall	All ages and abilities	Arborg		Summer		



Indoor Recreation

- 1 Arborg & District Arena Club
- 2 Novartis Aquatic Centre
- 3 Arborg Curling Rink
- 4 Arborg-Bifrost Community Centre
- 5 Kinsmen Building
- 6 Sunrise Lodge
- 7 Arborg & District Multicultural Heritage Village
- 8 Evergreen Regional Library (Arborg Branch)
- 9 Arborg Gateway
- 10 Arborg Early Middle School
- 11 Arborg Play Group

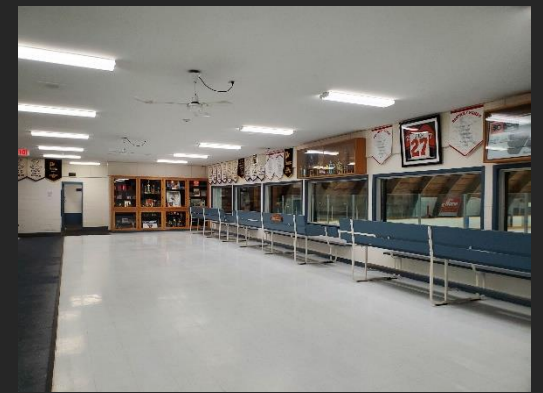
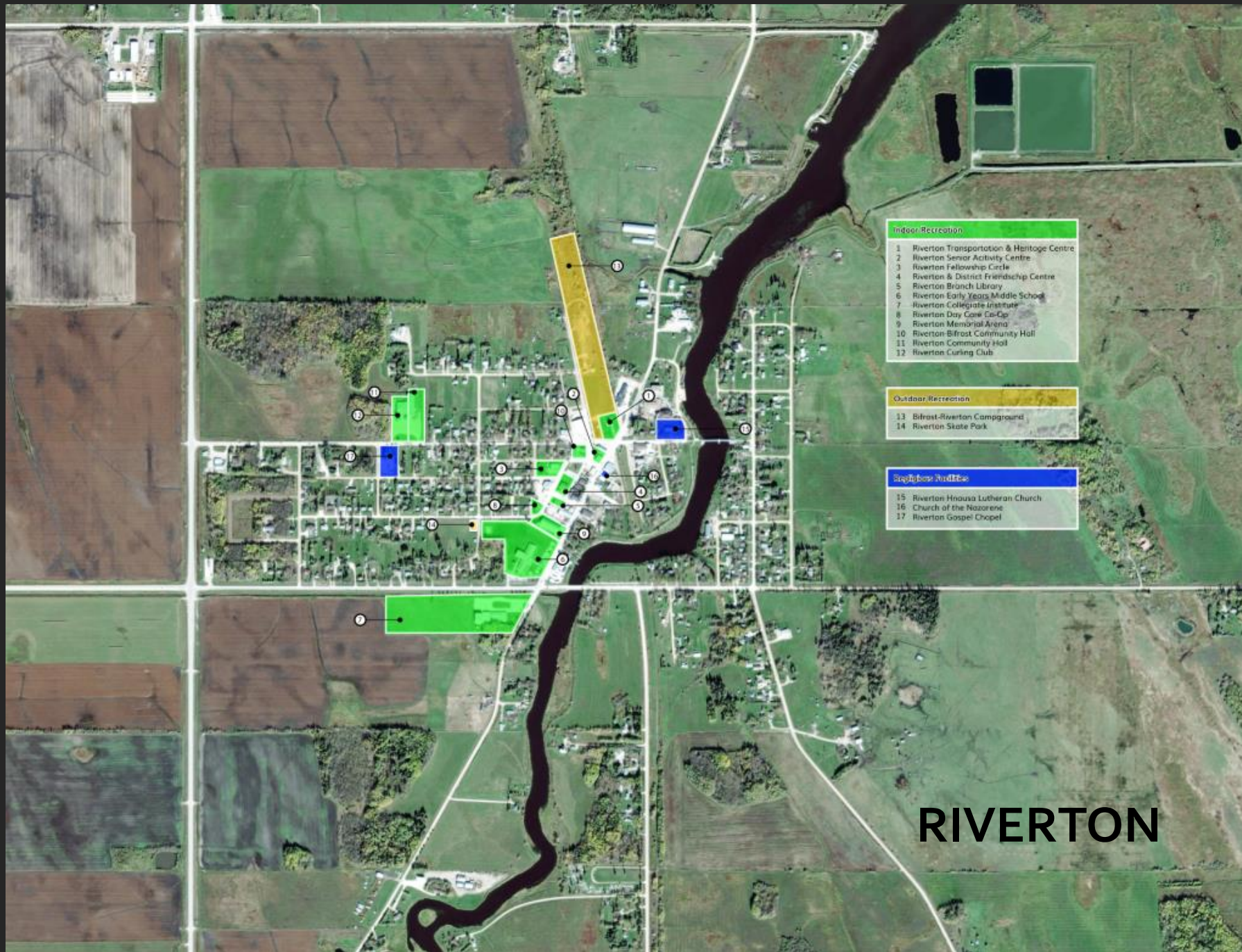
Outdoor Recreation

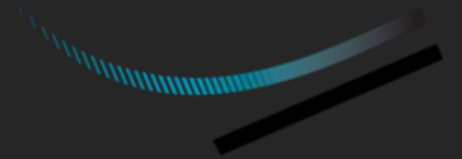
- 12 Snowmobile Routes
- 13 Icelandic River Trail

Religious Facilities

- 14 The Connection
- 15 Ukrainian Sacred Heart Church
- 16 Unitarian Church
- 17 Ardal-Geyser Lutheran Church
- 18 St. Philpas Neri Roman Catholic Church
- 19 Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness
- 20 Freedom Worship Centre
- 21 Arborg Christian Fellowship







Recreation Facility Condition Assessment

- The purpose of the Facility Condition Assessment is for the Town of Arborg and Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton to understand the facilities' condition and to effectively prioritize maintenance and upgrade needs.
- Dillon engineering team (consisting of a structural engineer, mechanical engineer, and electrical engineer) will evaluate each facility's condition.
- The review will include both a field assessment by the engineers, as well as interviews with facility administration and maintenance personnel.
- The condition information collected during the site visit will be used to identify repair, replacement or upgrade needed and associated costs for immediate repairs and long term upgrades (10-year time frame).
- Class D cost estimates will be developed as well.



Program Inventory

The inventory of recreation programs and activities includes details on:

- Category and Type (e.g. Sports, cultural, event, social, arts)
- Community and Venue
- User Groups
- Season
- Program Details

The program and activity inventory will help feed into the recreation plan recommendations as well.

All Season Programs	Dance Classes
	Zumba Classes
	Ukrainian Dancing

Winter Programs	Rec Hockey
	Minor Hockey
	Jr B Hockey
	Figure Skating

Summer Programs	Swim Program
	Summer Day Camp
	Pickleball
	Minor Baseball
	Minor Soccer
	Slo-pitch League
	Rod & Gun Club

Arborg Bifrost-Riverton Recreation Master Plan - Program Inventory

Program Name	Program Type	Program Category	Users	Program Details	Venue	Location	Season
	4H	Social					
Aqua Zumba	Fitness	Sports			Noventis Aquatic Centre	Arborg	Summer
Zumba - Sole Sisters (Tanya / Desarae)	Fitness	Sports				Riverton/Arborg	Year-Round
Minor League Baseball - Arborg	Baseball	Sports	U7, U9, U11, U13, U15, U18			Arborg/Riverton	Summer
Canada Day Celebrations	Celebration	Cultural			Centennial Park	Riverton	Summer
Carving with Thor	Carving	Cultural				Riverton	Winter
Cooking with Kids	Cooking Classes	Cultural					
Cooking with Youths	Cooking Classes	Cultural					
Perogy-bee's	Cooking Classes	Cultural					
Crafters Corner	Crafting	Cultural				Riverton	Winter
Arborg Nordic Ski Club	Cross-country skiing	Sports				Arborg	Winter
Floor Curling	Curling	Sports			Arborg & District Arena Riverton Hall	Arborg/Riverton	
Little Rocks Curling	Curling	Sports	Grades 3 to 5		Arborg Curling Club	Arborg	Winter
Junior Curling - Development	Curling	Sports	Grades 7 +		Arborg Curling Club Riverton Curling Rink	Arborg/Riverton	Winter
Junior Curling - League	Curling	Sports	Grades 6 to 10		Arborg Curling Club	Arborg	Winter
Men's League Curling	Curling	Sports			Arborg Curling Club Riverton Curling Club	Arborg/Riverton	Winter
Women's League Curling	Curling	Sports			Arborg Curling Club Riverton Curling Club	Arborg/Riverton	Winter
Mixed-Doubles Curling	Curling	Sports			Arborg Curling Club	Arborg	Winter
Old-Time Dance	Dancing	Sports	All ages		Arborg Hall	Arborg	Year-Round
Partners In Time Dance Company	Dance Classes	Sports		Jazz / Tap / Ballet		Riverton/Arborg	Year-Round
RiverTap Dance	Dance Classes	Sports				Riverton/Arborg	
Culturama	Entertainment	Event			Arborg Community Hall	Arborg	Fall
Arborg Horse Show	Equestrian	Event			Silver	Silver	Summer
Arborg Fair and Rodeo	Fair, Rodeo	Event			Fair Grounds (Silver)	Silver	Summer
Arborg Street Festival	Festival	Event			Arborg Main Street	Arborg	Summer
Coralee Barkman's Fitness Club	Fitness Club	Sports				Riverton	Year-Round
Open Gym	Fitness	Sports				Riverton	Year-Round
Arborg Gymnastics	Gymnastics	Sports			Arborg Early Middle Years School	Arborg	Fall/Winter
Arborg Jr B Ice Dawgs Hockey Club	Hockey	Sports	Ages 16 to 22		Arborg & District Arena	Arborg	Winter

Trends in Rural Recreation



Programming Trends

Over the past decade or so, a few key themes have emerged with regards to rural recreation as it relates to programming. These include:

- Declining volunteerism, volunteer burnout, and challenges with volunteer retention / recruitment
- Increasing interest in individual / self-directed activities; declining interest in organized activities and team sports
- Increasing participation by the senior demographic
- A desire for “drop-in” activities with less commitment

Facility Trends

Over the past decade or so, a few key themes have emerged with regards to rural recreation as it relates to facilities. These include:

- Facilities built in 1960s/1970s are approaching the end of their lifecycles
- A lack of funding not only for capital costs, but for ongoing maintenance / operations
- The need for flexibility in terms space to accommodate changing preferences and evolving functions (e.g. libraries as a training centres / technology hubs / meeting spaces)
- The need for efficiencies (energy efficiency, staff efficiencies, space allocation, etc.)
- Challenges with stricter regulations in terms of liability, permits, supervision, insurance, etc.
- A phased approach to development / expansion of facilities

Other Trends

Other key trends in rural recreation to emerge include:

- The importance of partnerships in the provision of recreation (government, non-profit, corporate, volunteers, schools, communities, etc.)
- Recreation as a tourism and economic development tool
- The importance of technology (communications, registration, smartphones, etc.)
- A focus on health and wellness
- Creative funding and financing models (tax revenue, user fees, fundraising, sponsorship, grants, cost-sharing, etc.)

Stakeholder Engagement and Public Consultation



Community Engagement

- Genuine public engagement and community consultation is key to a successful recreation planning process.
- Over the course of the project, our team will engage with the community in various ways, including:
 - Meetings with the local recreation commissions and Councils
 - Targeted stakeholder meetings (like today's)
 - Community Workshops (November 2nd and 3rd)
 - An online community-wide survey



Stakeholder Engagement (Today)

We'll be hosting a series of meetings in Riverton (Today and November 2nd) and Arborg (October 15th and November 3rd) with various individuals, organizations, and groups involved in recreation in the region, including:

- The local Recreation Commissions;
- Recreation groups, sports associations, and arts/cultural organizations;
- Representatives from local community centres, churches, and recreation facilities;
- Local school and school division officials; and,
- Several others.

Community Workshops

The purpose of the workshops will be to:

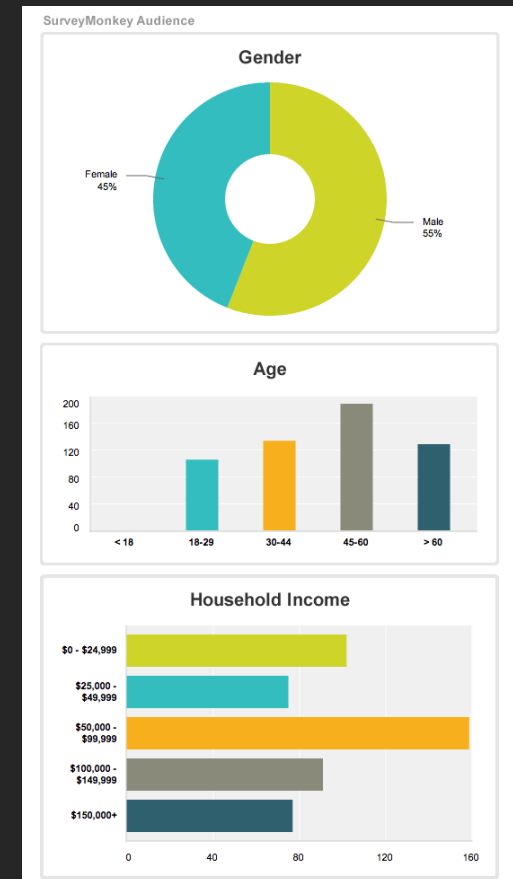
- Introduce the project and validate preliminary findings;
- Understand specific user group and demographics' needs;
- Gauge satisfaction with existing facility conditions and suggestions for changes;
- Establish recreation priorities;
- Develop the long-term vision/philosophy for recreation in Arborg and Bifrost-Riverton; and,
- Receive feedback and input into the Recreation Plan process.



Community Wide Survey

An online Community Wide Survey will be advertised in the local paper and through a mass mailing, and launched in November. It will serve to:

- Determine attitudes, preferences, priorities, and expectations
- Understand how residents spend leisure/recreation time now, and how would they like to in the future
- Gauge levels of satisfaction with facilities/programs
- Ascertain willingness to pay
- Identify barriers to participation
- Confirm priorities
- Break down data by demographics/geography



Other Recreation Master Plan Considerations



Delivery System and Volunteer Retention

Review Program Delivery

- Programming
- Structure of Rec Commissions
- Governance and Management
- Funding for facilities/programs
- Recommendations to:
 - Find efficiencies
 - Avoid duplication
 - Provide guidance
 - Overcome barriers



Volunteer Recruitment and Retention

- Avoid volunteer burnout
- Encourage volunteerism
- Build capacity and transfer skills
- Volunteer support
- Appreciation and Recognition

Recommendations, Implementation and Funding

Based on the cumulative analyses from the previous tasks, the Project Team will develop a series of draft recommendations. The recommendations will cover:

- Facility, open space, and trail network priorities;
- Service delivery and efficiencies;
- Potential partnerships and funding options to pursue;
- A series of recreational priorities, in order to address gaps in service;
- Policy options, levies, and park dedication; and
- Phased approaches to implementation (short, intermediate, and long-term).

Recreation Master Plan

Recreation Master Plan Outline (1/2)

- Vision Statement and Philosophy
- Goals and Objectives
- Background Study Findings
- Stakeholder Engagement Summary
- Facility Inventory and Condition Assessment
- Program Inventory and Needs Assessment
- Financial Considerations
 - Financing and Funding
 - Expenses and Revenues
 - Capital and Operating Costs
 - Feasibility

Recreation Master Plan Outline (2/2)

- Recommendations
 - Departmental Structure
 - Program Delivery
 - Volunteer Retention
 - Policy Considerations
 - Open Space, Park, Trails, and Facilities
- Implementation
 - Implementation Tools
 - Phasing (short, medium, long-term)
- Conclusion



Next Steps

Next Steps

The next steps in the planning process will include:

- Finalizing the background study
- Hosting the remaining stakeholder meetings
- Hosting the community workshops
- Launching the community survey
- Completing the facility condition assessments
- Undertaking the recreation needs assessment and developing recommendations
- Presenting the draft Recreation Master Plan to both Councils
- Finalizing the final Recreation Master Plan

Discussion

Discussion

- As community stakeholders involved in the provision of recreation in Arborg and Bifrost-Riverton, your perspectives are critical to our study.
- For this part of the meeting, we would like to engage in an informal discussion regarding a wide variety of recreation topics, including programming, facilities, volunteerism, recreation delivery, willingness to pay, and several others.
- These topics will be covered broadly in the following categories:
 - Opportunities
 - Challenges and Barriers
 - Priorities
 - Implementation
 - Other

Opportunities

- What opportunities do you see for recreation in Arborg and Bifrost-Riverton?
- Do you see opportunities for additional recreation programs, activities, or events? Are there gaps that need to be filled?
- Do you see opportunities for enhanced or new facilities?
- What is your vision for recreation over the next 10 years?

Barriers, Constraints, Challenges

- What do you see as major barriers to recreation in the community? (Cost? Distance? Interest? Availability? Lack of Volunteers? Lack of Time?)
- What can be done to address these barriers?

Priorities

- What do you see as recreation priorities?
 - Facility priorities?
 - Programming priorities?
 - Other priorities?
- Which priorities do you see as short-term? Medium-term? Long-term?

Implementation

- How do you see the opportunities and priorities being implemented?
- What are your thoughts on funding, financing, and community willingness to pay?
- Are there any changes to the recreation delivery model that might help with implementation?

Open Discussion

- Is there anything we've missed?
- Is there anything else you would like to discuss regarding recreation in the community?

Thank You!

If you have any further questions,
please contact:

Brendan Salakoh, RPP, MCIP

Landmark Planning & Design

Email: info@landmarkplanning.ca

Telephone: 204-453-8008

Thank you!

