



OPRS Mission

Oliver Parks and Recreation Society believes that recreation encompasses a broad spectrum of activities vital to the development of our community's character, spirit and culture.

Recreation is the experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative and spiritual pursuits that enhance individual and community wellbeing.

Core Values

Commitment, Accountability, Respect, Fun, Health,
Service Excellence, Safety, Efficiency

Strategic Goals

GOAL 1 - ACTIVE LIVING

Foster active living through physical recreation.

Priorities

1. Provide a variety of physical recreation experiences for tykes, children, youth, adults, and older adults to ensure participation throughout the life course.
2. Incorporate physical literacy in recreation programs for people of all ages and abilities to support lifelong participation in and enjoyment of sport.
3. Strive to reduce sedentary behaviours by implementing strategies to address this important public health issue.
4. Provide safe, welcoming, low or no-cost opportunities for families and multiple generations to participate and play together.
5. Ensure natural and built facilities are accessible, safe and equipped to encourage active play.

GOAL 2 - ACCESS AND INCLUSION

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

Priorities

1. Enable people of all ages and abilities to participate in recreation.
2. Develop and implement strategies and policies which ensure that no family or individual in Oliver and Area C are denied access to recreation opportunities as a result of economic disadvantage.
3. Recognize and enable the experience of Indigenous peoples in recreation with a holistic approach drawn from traditional values and culture. Work with the Osoyoos Indian Band in pursuit of all five strategic goals.
4. Provide recreational opportunities and experiences that are respectful and appropriate for various ethno-cultural groups. Engage persons of diverse backgrounds in developing, leading and evaluating recreation and park services.
5. Address the unique challenges and capacities in Oliver and Area C as a rural community.
6. Provide policies and programs that facilitate full participation in recreation by people of all abilities. Work with persons with disabilities and special needs to create inclusive opportunities and build leadership capacity.
7. Provide a welcoming and safe environment for people with all sexual orientations and sexual identities.
8. Leverage partnerships to improve communication, awareness, engagement and understanding of needs within community.
9. Enable and encourage women and girls of all backgrounds and circumstances to achieve their potential and participate fully in all types of recreation. Address the historical, cultural and social barriers to participation experienced by girls and women and apply a gender equity lens when developing and monitoring policies, programs and practices.
10. Promote and maintain a healthy work culture that contributes to the wellbeing of Society members, employees, program leaders and volunteers.

GOAL 3 - CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

Help people connect to nature through recreation.

Priorities:

1. Develop public awareness and education initiatives to increase understanding of the importance of nature to wellbeing and child development, the role of recreation in connecting people to nature and the importance of sustainability in parks and recreation.
2. Provide a variety of outdoor adventure, fitness and traditional opportunities for all ages and abilities.
3. Ensure that operational policies and practices limit the use of non-renewable resources and minimize negative impacts on the natural environment.
4. Work collaboratively with local government and funding partners to create and maintain safe, welcoming natural spaces and places that allow year-round access to nature.

GOAL 4 - SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS

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

Priorities:

1. Work with community partners to increase the use of existing structures and spaces for multiple purposes, including recreation (schools, Multicultural Centre, arena, parks)
2. Renew/revitalize recreational infrastructure as required and meet the need for green spaces by:
 - Securing dedicated government funding at all levels as well as partnerships with private and not-for-profit sectors for the necessary development, renewal and rehabilitation of facilities and outdoor spaces
 - Developing and adopting innovative renewal strategies that will endure over time, use less energy and provide affordable access for all
3. Lead and support community efforts and planning processes for active transportation and public transit. Encourage development and maintenance of active transportation routes that connect people to the places they want to go.
4. Develop and maintain strong partnerships with schools, Interior Health, social service organizations, the arts community, RCMP, service clubs and local businesses to enhance mental and social wellbeing by creating supportive social environments where people live, work and play.

GOAL 5 - RECREATION CAPACITY

Ensure the continued growth and sustainability of the recreation industry and the Oliver Parks and Recreation Society.

Priorities:

1. Increase collaborative efforts among local government, volunteer organizations, OIB, private sector to support and nurture a vibrant recreation department that serves as a primary means to achieve the goals in this strategic plan.
2. Implement career awareness, preparation and development strategies to attract and educate new leaders.
3. Support advanced education and knowledge development through high-quality training for employees, program leaders and volunteers.
4. Engage volunteers of all ages and from all walks of life. Recruit and support volunteers from a variety of ethnocultural populations and other groups that face constraints to participation.
5. Provide leadership to the Oliver and Area C community in recreation and parks management and act as a facilitator of connecting individuals and families to nature and healthy lifestyles.
6. Develop organizational capacity while demonstrating fiscal responsibility of tax dollars and user fees.