



# What is this Study?

Scope and Who Was Involved?

## Parks & Outdoor Rec Study

What are the needs and demands for outdoor recreation?

How can the RDBN support clubs without stifling the enthusiasm and energy of clubs?

What could the RDBN's outdoor recreation service look like?

### Does this Study include municipal recreation services, like pools and arenas?

This Study is focused on rural areas of the RDBN and is focused on outdoor recreation only. Indoor recreation amenities, such as pools and arenas, are not within the scope of this work.



#### Who was involved?

The Study involved interviews with 42 outdoor recreation clubs, an online survey with 482 responses, interviews with 40 representatives from different levels of government, and a focus group.

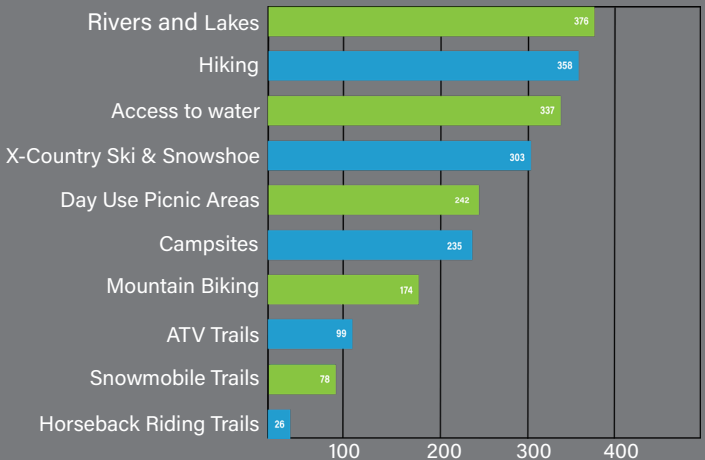
For more information visit: [www.rdbn.bc.ca/recreation](http://www.rdbn.bc.ca/recreation)



## What did the survey respondents say?

The public survey received 482 responses, 50% of which were from Electoral Area A (Smithers & Telkwa region). The top 4 most frequently reported outdoor activities included water-based activities, hiking, accessing rivers and lakes, and cross-country skiing/snowshoeing.

### Common Challenges Survey Results



The top 4 most frequently reported challenges were maintenance, lack of signage, poor access roads, and access to lakes and rivers (including boat launches). Many survey respondents also expressed a need for more outdoor recreation opportunities that are close to town and accessible for all ages and skill levels.

## What did the clubs say?

The process involved interviewing 42 outdoor recreation clubs across the RDBN. Though each club was unique, the following common themes were most frequently reported when asked about challenges that they face:



## Building Blocks for a RDBN Outdoor Recreation Service

To design a parks and outdoor recreation service that meets local needs, the following “building blocks” have been developed. These building blocks are not intended to be exclusive of one another and can be combined into various service delivery options. These buildings blocks aim to support clubs and allow clubs to continue to play a leadership role in manging outdoor recreation amenities.

### RDBN Administration

The RDBN hires at least one full time employee to deliver an outdoor recreation service.

### Comunity-Led Non-Profit Administration

The RDBN provides funding to a non-profit society (or multiple societies) to deliver an outdoor recreation service.

### Management of Beach Access, Boat Launches & Active Transpoartaion Trails

The RDBN gets involved in the management of beach accesses, boat launches and active transportation trails.

### Grants

The RDBN establishes a grant program to provide annual maintenance funding to outdoor recreation clubs.

### Multi-Year Funding Agreement

The RDBN enters into multi-year agreements with outdoor recreation clubs to provide funding to maintain outdoor recreation amenities that clubs operate.



## What would it cost?

The cost of an outdoor recreation service could be supported by property tax revenues. The costs of delivering outdoor recreation services would likely be lower than the cost of providing pools and arenas, but it depends on which communities pay into the service. The table below shows different tax rates and the associated cost for the average residential property.

Tax Rate per \$100,000 Assessed Value (AV)	Cost for the Average Residential Property
\$5 to \$8	\$5 to \$22
\$9 to \$12	\$10 to \$33
\$13 to \$16	\$13 to \$44
\$17 to \$20	\$17 to \$55

### Comparable RDBN Tax Rate for Pools

- ▲ Bulkley Valley Pool \$35.99 per \$100,000 Assessed Value



## Why?

Below are some of the primary reasons that the RDBN is exploring the idea of establishing a parks and outdoor recreation service:

- ▲ **Gaps in Service:** The diagram to the right illustrates that currently no level of government is focused on providing outdoor recreation in rural areas that are close to municipal boundaries. These areas are important because they do have high recreational and environmental values.
- ▲ **Maintenance Needs Exceeding Volunteer Capacity:** It is challenging for outdoor recreation clubs to meet maintenance needs with only volunteer labor and grants.
- ▲ **Attracting Residents & Community Health:** Having high quality outdoor recreation amenities can attract people to a rural community and make people more likely to stay. Having informal recreation opportunities close to where you live also makes it easier to stay active.
- ▲ **Tourism Opportunities:** Visitors enjoy our trails, campgrounds and parks just as much as we do! Investing in high-quality outdoor recreation amenities can be a draw for tourism and support diversifying the economy.

