

FINAL REPORT

RECREATION MASTER PLAN

TOWN OF GLOVERTOWN

| SEPTEMBER 30, 2016 |



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Recreation Master Plan

Town of Glovertown

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Town of Glovertown recognizes that recreation is an important part of life in the town and highly valued by its citizens. In recognizing the role recreation programs and services have in creating a sustainable, vibrant and healthy community, Council has undertaken this Recreation Master Plan to provide a long – term plan that will identify recreation needs and priorities in the Town of Glovertown for the ten- year period 2017-2027.

1.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Master Plan will provide the Town of Glovertown with recommendations and priorities that will guide the development and enhancement of current and future recreation programs, services and facilities in the Town for the next 10 years.

1.2 APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The consulting team used a three-phase approach to developing the Master Plan. These phases were:

- **Stage One** Assess Existing Delivery System
- **Stage Two** Public Engagement and Stakeholder Input
- **Stage Three** Assess, Analyze and Evaluate Current and Future Needs

2.0 EXISTING FACILITIES AND SERVICES

The tables below provide a synopsis of existing facilities in the Town of Glovertown

2.1 INDOOR FACILITIES IN GLOVERTOWN

Table 1. Indoor Facilities

Type of Facilities	What Exists in Glovertown	Synopsis of what exists
Indoor Recreation Facility		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Glovertown Recreation Building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building is not a community centre but supports summer programs at Recreation Grounds Storage space adequate for future needs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lions Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer events such as Seniors Dinner hosted here
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full Gospel Tabernacle Pentecostal Church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Programs offered by Dover Family Resource Centre
Ice		
Stadiums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Glovertown Gardens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports school programs Town plans to upgrade lighting to LED to brighten facility Supports Terra Nova Tornadoes figure skating and hockey programs, including Glovertown minor hockey Association Operating subsidy minimum burden to the Town
Gymnasias and Fitness Rooms		
Gymnasias	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 gymnasias <ul style="list-style-type: none"> one large gymnasium one small gymnasium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located at the Glovertown Academy and available to the public School Gymnastics Club operates in small gymnasium Monday-Wednesday Men's indoor soccer, men's basketball and ladies' fitness run programs in school gymnasium Both gymnasias are at capacity week nights of the school semester
Cardio and Weight rooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Fitness/Weight room at Glovertown Academy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School fitness/weight room available to students and staff only Facility is quite small with limited equipment
Fitness Rooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No dedicated facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Privately offered Zumba and Yoga classes at Lions Club/Fire Hall
Other		
Program Rooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Multi-purpose Room 1 Music Room 1 Industrial Arts Room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All located in Glovertown Academy Multi-purpose Room has exterior entrance and is currently used as cafeteria but school would like to convert to a alumni room Music room has access to stage
Janes House Museum		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Museum highlights history of Glovertown and early settler activities

Type of Facilities	What Exists in Glovertown	Synopsis of what exists
House of Diamonds Art Centre		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artists and artisans promote and sell their work Has an artist studio and residence on site Mandate is to offer workshops and art classes to public, but volunteers facing commitment and funding challenges

2.2 OUTDOOR FACILITIES IN GLOVERTOWN

Type of Facilities	What Exists in Glovertown	Synopsis of What Exists
Athletic Facilities		
Rectangular Sports Fields (for soccer, rugby, etc.)	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor soccer program played on softball field at Glovertown Recreation Complex
Softball Diamonds	1 - Softball field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located at Glovertown Recreation Complex Outfield has an uneven surface with many ruts Hosted provincial tournament in 2015
Multi-purpose Courts	1 - To be constructed in 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soon to be constructed at Glovertown Recreation Complex
Basketball Courts	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included in the multi-court
Trails		
Walking Trails	Ken Diamond Memorial Walking Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.6 km walking trail well maintained and in excellent condition Passes through a variety of landscapes and offers various levels of difficulty Includes 6 km of wheelchair accessible trail Several smaller unofficial trails located throughout Town
Cross Country Ski Trails	0 formal trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alexander Bay Ski Club was established to develop trails but currently inactive A development plan (<i>Winter Trail Development Recommendations 2014</i>) has been completed Club has to rebuild to advance plan and seek funding Some residents ski on existing (ungroomed) walking trails
Snowmobile/ATV Trails	Various	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snowmobile and ATV Trails throughout town; Designated trails managed and maintained by NL Snowmobile Federation Terra Nova Trail Riders Club
Parks and Playgrounds		
Open Spaces		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few existing public open spaces
Community Parks	1- Ken Diamond Memorial Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established in 1996 Encompasses brooks, streams and wetlands, trails and hill top lookouts. Diamond Dash cross country race held here
Playgrounds	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very popular playground located at Recreation Grounds

Type of Facilities	What Exists in Glovertown	Synopsis of What Exists
Splash Pads	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents take children to Gander's splash pad
Memorial Parks	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> War Memorial located across from United Church. Little Jep monument also there
Boat Launch	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central boat launch is very well used from May 24 onward South side is smaller and not used as much as North Side
Marina	1- Glovertown Marina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operated by Glovertown Marina Association Has 45 berths and will develop 100 July 1st celebrations were held at Marina in 2015 and will likely be held there again Boaters access the beautiful Alexander Bay with its numerous islands
Rivers and Ponds	4 - Terra Nova River Maccles Brook Penny's Brook Northwest Brook Several ponds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two salmon rivers: Terra Nova River and Maccles Brook Trout fishing opportunities at ponds including at old Alexander Bay railway station Beginning and advanced kayaking take place along Terra Nova River, and waterfalls of Maccles Brook
Aquatics		
Natural swimming hole	Terra Nova River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located close to Bridge Main Street North There is a diving board Town does not operate this swimming area
Other		
Terra Nova National Park		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town is immediately adjacent to Terra Nova National Park Have excellent partnership and cross promotion of events

2.3 PROGRAMS AND SERVICE DELIVERY

Table 3. Programs and Services

Type of Programs	What Exists in Glovertown
Special Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexander Bay Days • Winter Carnival • Seniors Dinner • Christmas with Santa • Easter Egg Hunt • Music Fest • Gospel Concert • Diamond Dash Cross Country Running Race • Canada Day
Children and Youth Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skate Canada CanSkate Learn to Skate and Competitive Program • Terra Nova Tornadoes Competitive Figure Skating (4-17 years) • Minor Hockey Recreational and Competitive* • Minor Hockey Coaching Training • Minor Softball Programs • Gymnastics Club Competitive Training Programs • Summer Recreation Program (aged 6-12) • School Sports – Softball, Badminton, Volleyball, Basketball, Skating, Cross Country Running, Skiing, Snowshoeing • Martial Arts - Karate • Ball Hockey tournaments • Terra Nova Junior Program • Mountain Biking Club
Adult Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men’s Basketball Programs • Zumba and Yoga Classes (privately offered) • 50+ Club • Womens Institute • Lions Club • Recreational Hockey • Indoor Soccer • Trail Riders Club • Bingo

3.0 IDENTIFICATION OF COMMUNITY NEEDS AND KEY ISSUES

3.1 KEY STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

In order to maximize input from the community, the consultants met with a total of nine stakeholder groups throughout the week of May 9th to the 12th, 2016. Stakeholders met with the consultants to identify what services they provided and what are their needs. The stakeholder groups represented sports, recreation and leisure organizations and service providers. The consultants also met with recreation staff and managers in the Town of Glovertown.

From the information collected through this process, the most important concerns, issues and needs were noted. It should be pointed out here that just because there is a perceived need for a new or improved service or program does not mean that the need is justified, or is a high priority if justified.

For complete stakeholder comments, see ***Appendix A: Stakeholder Comments and Issues***

3.2 PUBLIC MEETING

Besides the stakeholder interviews, a general public meeting was held on May 11th, 2015, at the Lions Club with the goal to engage the residents of Glovertown. This meeting was facilitated by the consultant, and was an opportunity for the residents of Glovertown to discuss and highlight issues and concerns about recreational and leisure programs, services and facilities in the Town.

For a summary of the comments and concerns raised at the public meeting, see ***Appendix B: Public Meeting Comments.***

3.3 PUBLIC SURVEY

In association with Town staff, the consultants developed and conducted an online survey that was administered via the Town of Glovertown's website from June 9th to June 30th, 2015. A total of 63 respondents participated in the survey. Respondents were asked questions regarding their opinions and perceived need for additional and/or enhanced facilities and programs.

Respondents were not required to answer all of the questions, and some of the 63 respondents chose to skip some questions. Typically, between 39 and 51 respondents answered each question. For the sake of simplicity, the text below does not state how many survey participants responded to each question. The percentages given are in reference to those respondents who chose to answer the question. (Readers can refer to the entire Survey Report for the number of participants that answered each question.)

A report of the survey results can be found in **Appendix C: Public Survey Results**.

A summary of some of the key public survey responses is presented in Section 3.3.1. This is followed by a more detailed summary by category in the remaining sections:

3.3.1 SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

- 68% participate in physical activities and 51% of respondents participate in leisure activities
- The activity most respondents participate in is walking: 95% of respondents walk in Glovertown.
- Lack of facilities is the main reason, by far, respondents do not participate in recreational activities (57%)
- Participants would be more motivated to use programs and services in Glovertown if there were more facilities (82%) and a broader range of programs and services (80%)
- The two indoor facilities most respondents think are *needed* are a multi-purpose facility (83%) and a youth centre (93%).
- The top three facilities (indoor and outdoor) respondents think the town should commit extra funding to are a Multipurpose community Centre (77%), Indoor Walking Track (77%) and a Dog Park (70%).

- A high percentage of respondents think the Town needs additional programs for all groups in the community – teens, families, adults, seniors, persons with low income and persons with disabilities. (90% of respondents think more programs are needed for teens)
- Additional fitness and youth leadership programs are the top two program areas needed in Glovertown (87% and 83% respectively).
- 73% of participants would like to learn more about recreation programs and services in Glovertown.
- If a new indoor facility were built, 64% of respondents would be very likely to use it. Ad 20% would be somewhat likely to use it.
- 62% of respondents would be willing to pay an increase in their property tax or rent per year in order to help build or operate facilities and programs.

3.3.2 OUTDOOR FACILITIES: PARKS, OPEN SPACES AND TRAILS

Respondents were asked to rate outdoor facilities in terms of ‘not needed’, ‘needed’, very needed’ and ‘unsure’. The results reported below combine “needed” plus “very needed” responses, and then present the facilities considered “very needed” by respondents. For complete results, please see *Appendix C*.

The top *outdoor* facilities respondents felt are needed (“needed” plus “very needed”) in Glovertown are:

- Splash Pad (77%)
- Dog Park (75%)
- Neighbourhood Parks for all ages (71%)
- Outdoor Nature Swimming Pools (71%)
- Sliding Hill (67%)
- Walking Trails (63%)
- Youth park with BMX and skateboard parks (61%)

The top three *outdoor* facilities considered “very needed” by respondents are:

- Outdoor Nature Swimming Pools (40%)
- Splash Pad (35%)
- Dog Park (27%)

The top five outdoor facilities respondents think the town should commit extra funding to are:

- Dog Park (70%)
- Sliding Hill (65%)
- Splash Pad (65%)
- Neighbourhood Park for all ages (60%)
- Multi-purpose courts for basketball, tennis and ball hockey (60%)

Comments regarding outdoor recreation participants provided in the public survey:

- An outdoor rink would be nice
- Indoor and outdoor walking opportunities would please the most people
- Create a picnic area at the little water pool area so children can play in the water
- Better maintenance of Ken Diamond Park
- Reconnect snowmobile and atv trails that have been lost to housing development

3.3.3 INDOOR FACILITIES

Participants of the survey were asked to select from a list of 11 indoor recreational facilities and rate them as “not needed” ‘needed’, “very needed” or respondents could select ‘unsure’.

The top amenities respondents felt are needed in an indoor facility (needed plus very needed) are:

- Youth Centre (93%)
- Multi-purpose facilities with program spaces and and gymnasium (83%)
- Fitness Centre (cardio/ weight) (83%)
- Café and Socializing Space (80%)
- Indoor Walking Track (76%)

The top five indoor amenities considered to be “very needed” are:

- Youth Centre (53%)
- Walking/running track (49%)
- Fitness centres (cardio/weights) (43%)
- Café and Socializing Space (41%)

- Multi-purpose facilities with gymnasium, program spaces, etc. (34%)

77% of respondents think the Town should commit funding to a Multi-purpose Centre and an Indoor Walking Track.

If a new indoor facility were built, 64% of respondents said they would be very likely to use it.

Comments regarding indoor recreation participants provided in the public survey:

- An indoor pool would be very nice

3.3.4 PROGRAMS AND SERVICE DELIVERY

The top five physical activities or exercise that respondents participate in on a regular basis are:

- Walking (92%)
- Boating (64%)
- Hiking (62%)
- Snowmobiling/ATVing (51%)
- Recreational Ice Skating (46%)

The top three reasons that limit respondents from participating in recreational activity are:

- Lack of facilities (57.45%)
- Lack of time (25%)
- Lack of programs for adults (23%) and families (23%)

Participants would be motivated to use programs and services in Glovertown by:

- Increased Quantity of Facilities (82%)
- Broader Range of Programs and Services (80%)
- Increased quality of facilities (73%)
- More advertising and promotion (67%)
- Reduced user fees (64%)

Participants think that programs are needed for:

- Teens (90%)
- Families (88%)
- Adults (84%)
- Seniors (80%)
- Persons of low income (78%)
- Persons with disabilities (75%)

Participants think that programs are needed in the following areas:

- Fitness (87%)
- Leadership for youth (83%)
- Outdoor and Nature Oriented Activities (79%)
- General Interest Programs (cooking, gardening, etc.) (75%)
- Youth Science and Technology Education Programs (73%)
- Special Events and Festivals (71%)

Communication

- 61% of respondents are familiar with recreation programs and services in Glovertown. 73% of respondents would like to learn about programs and services.

Comments regarding programs that participants provided in the public survey:

- Teens need somewhere to go and something to do

3.3.5 FUNDING

Respondents think the Town should commit funding to:

- Multi-purpose Centre (77 %)
- Indoor Walking Track (77%)
- Dog Park (70%)
- Sliding Hill (65%)
- Splash Pad (60%)

62% of respondents would be willing to pay an increase in their property tax or rent per year in order to help build or operate facilities and programs. *(Note: However, given the small size of survey respondents, the amount respondents are willing to pay should be confirmed as part of a feasibility study before development of a facility with high capital and/or operating costs.)*

They are willing to pay:

- \$25 per year (9%)
- \$26-\$50 per year (17%)
- \$51-\$75 per year (13%)
- \$76-\$ 100 per year (15%)
- No Comment - Don't know (41%)

Comments regarding funding that was provided in the public survey:

- Rather than raise taxes, fundraise instead

3.3.6 DEMOGRAPHIC OF RESPONDENTS

One quarter (25%) of survey respondents are between the ages of 30 and 49, with 18% of respondents falling within each of the 19-29, 50-59 and 60-69 age cohorts.

- 55% of respondents live in household made up of adults with children.
- 35% of respondents live in households made up of adults with no children

3.3.7 ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

As summarized above, a total of 14 respondents provided additional comments regarding parks and recreation services and facilities in the Town of Glovertown. To read these comments in full see

Appendix C: Public Survey: Q 24.

3.4 LIST OF COMMUNITY RECREATION NEEDS

Based on the results of the public survey, stakeholder and public consultations, augmented with and the consultant's extensive experience in recreational planning with many other communities in the province and in Canada, a total of 16 preliminary community leisure and recreation needs were identified. These needs are summarized in Table 4 below. Note these preliminary are not recommendations; rather they are a preliminary list of needs from which the recommendations will arise. Note also that the preliminary needs in the table below are not ranked or prioritized.

Table 4: Summary of Preliminary Leisure and Recreational Needs (non-prioritized)

Summary of Preliminary Leisure and Recreational Needs
Outdoor Recreation Facility Needs
1. Enhanced trail network to support variety of uses and connect to community assets
2. More neighbourhood parks
3. An improved Govertown Recreation Complex
4. A new combined free-play spots field and festival grounds
5. More opportunities for outdoor winter recreation
6. Enhanced opportunities for water-based recreation
Indoor Recreation Facility Needs
7. New Multi-Purpose Community Centre
8. New Youth Centre
9. A Fitness Centre for Strength and Cardiovascular Training
10. Small theatre for performing arts
Programs and Services Needs
11. Increased focus on teens
12. More opportunities for additional and enhanced fitness programs
13. More opportunities for general interest and arts programs
14. More opportunities for outdoor and nature orientated activities
15. Better access to facilities for people with disabilities
16. Continued access to programs for persons with low income
Operating Management Issues and Services
17. Develop a Volunteer recruitment, training, retention strategy
18. Better promotion of recreational programs and services
19. Use recreation and parks as a vehicle for tourism development
20. Revised role for Recreation Commission

In the following sections the consultants describe the issues around each individual need, and identify what is required to meet the need. Recommendations are then put forth and prioritized.

4.0 PLANNING CONTEXT AND INITIAL PRIORITIES

4.1 DEMOGRAPHICS AND LEISURE TRENDS IN NL AND CANADA

This section provides a brief profile of Glovertown's demographics, followed by an overview of the key trends affecting leisure services in Newfoundland and Labrador and Canada, and their potential implications for Glovertown (Section 4.3).

4.1.1 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF GLOVERTOWN

Demographics refer to the description of a population in terms of numbers, ages, family configuration, income and other variables. The key source of demographic information in Canada is the Canada Census that is carried out every five years by Statistics Canada. The last Census was done in May, 2011 with the next to occur in May, 2016. However, demographics specifically for Glovertown were not available, and NL Community Accounts informed was mostly used for this study.

4.1.2 POPULATION GROWTH

From 2006 to 2011, the population grew from 2062 residents to 2122. This represents a 2.9% increase in the population between 2006-2011.

4.1.3 AGE COMPOSITION

Children and Youth

In the Town of Glovertown, in 2011, there were 430 residents aged 18 years and under, representing 20% of the population. In 2011, there were:

- 95 preschoolers aged 0-4
- 100 children 5-9 years
- 110 children 10-14 years
- 125 youth aged 15-18 years

Adults and Seniors

- In 2011, 86 % of the population of Glovertown is over the age of 15.

- The median age of local residents was 48 years of age.
- 355 females are between the ages of 20-49 years; these are the child -bearing years.
- 335 residents are between the ages of 65 and 79 years.
- 485 seniors are aged 60 and above, representing 23% of the population.

4.1.4 HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

According to the 2011 Stats Canada Census, in Glovertown:

- There are a total of 820 total private households
- There are 275 couple- with- children households (census and non-census families)
- There are 340 couple- only without children households (census and noncensus) families
- There are 55 lone parent families

Because information from Statistics Canada was limited for the Town of Glovertown, the consultants reviewed information from Community Accounts NL:

- The average couple family income in Glovertown was \$85,700 in 2013.
- Half of the couple families in Glovertown had incomes of more than \$67,100 in 2013.
- Half of the lone parent families in Glovertown had incomes of more than \$36,300 in 2013
- The number of individuals in Glovertown who received Income Support Assistance at some point in 2015 was 145.
- The total number of children ages 0 to 17 in Glovertown who were in families receiving Income Support Assistance in 2015 was 40.
- The average benefits for those people collecting Income Support Assistance in Glovertown in 2015 was \$8,500.
- 6.9% of the population received Income Support Assistance at some point during the year 2015.
- The number of individuals in Glovertown who collected Employment Insurance at some point in 2014 was 435, representing 38.5% of the labour force .
- The average benefits for individuals collecting Employment Insurance in Glovertown in 2014 was \$8,400.

School Enrolment

- In schools located within Local Area 48: Alexander Bay:
- School Year 1989-1990 2015-2016
- Total Students 1,093 454
- Primary 282 125
- Elementary 240 94
- Junior High 287 118
- Senior High 273 117

Select Community Accounts Personal Indicators of Community Well-Being (self-assessed)

This information was compiled by Community Accounts:

- 91% of population consider Glovertown to be safe
- 87% of population have a strong or very strong sense of belonging to a community
- 59% of the population aged 18-64 are working
- 22.6% of the population are older than 65 years of age
- 36 % of the population in the Central Heath Authority Area often have limitations in activities due to health Issues
- 56% of the population have excellent or very good self- assessed health status, aged 12+

4.2 TRENDS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS

Trends are observable patterns of change, some obvious and others more subtle, in areas as diverse as demographics, consumer preferences, economics, organizations and the environment. There are a number of trends that are affecting leisure lifestyles, and parks, recreation and cultural services across Canada and in Newfoundland and Labrador. While these trends are examined primarily at the national and provincial levels, most have clear implications and applicability for the Town of Glovertown.

The trends are grouped under the following categories:

1. Demographic
2. Leisure Behaviour Trends
3. Organizational and Workplace
4. Infrastructure

4.2.1 DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

- In the Central region, only Gander had significant child growth (0-9 years) of 12.5% going from 1,160 in 2006 to 1,305 in 2011.

4.2.2 LEISURE BEHAVIOUR TRENDS

Shift Towards Informal and Individual:

- People are choosing less formal and more individual activities, including drop-in fitness, over more formal group activities. At the same time, many people enjoy the social aspect of being in group settings.

Adult Wellness and Education:

- There is a general trend towards individualized activity, however, the motivation inherent in group classes and workouts remains as an important tool for getting people active
- A focus on generational programming and family based programming.

Child and Youth Activity:

- Children are estimated to be 40% less active than 30 years ago,
- Childhood obesity and overweight levels have respectively tripled and doubled since 1991
- Many children spend 6-8 hours a day in front of screens outside of school hours.

The Nature Deficit:

- Fewer children are playing outside in natural settings, and are losing their connection with nature and the imaginative play and physical activity that occurs in outdoors.

4.2.3 ORGANIZATIONAL AND WORKPLACE TRENDS

Partnering and Alternative Delivery Systems:

- Providers work with other sectors such as government departments and private companies in program delivery

4.2.4 INFRASTRUCTURE

- The demand for flexibility is one of the strongest trends in facility design.
- Spaces need to be easily adjusted from programs such as Pilates, to cycling while meeting the demands of participants.
- Specialized spaces to support activities must enhance technology capabilities to allow a multi-purpose space to change quickly; and, this also results in a needs for increased dedicated storage space.
- The cost per square foot versus utilization informs infrastructure decisions.
- Currently the highest value activity spaces include: meeting rooms, lounge area, group exercise, weights and fitness, outdoor activity pursuits, cycle/spin, walking/jogging track.

5.0 COMMUNITY NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This section describes the issues specific to each of the 16 preliminary needs and identifies what is required to meet these needs, as described in Section 4.1. The recommendations that result are then prioritized (this priority may or may not be the same as the initial priority assigned to the preliminary need). These priorities inform the ten-year implementation plan and schedule in Section 6.0. The physical developments as well as the capital investments required to fulfill the recommendations are included in the implementation plan.

5.1 OUTDOOR FACILITY RECREATION ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1.1 ENHANCED TRAIL NETWORK TO SUPPORT VARIETY OF USES AND CONNECT TO COMMUNITY ASSETS

The Town has a beautiful and well used walking trail at Ken Diamond Memorial Park that offers a variety of landscapes and level of difficulty. Throughout Glovertown, there are also several informal trails located that are well used.

There are formal and informal snowmobile trails and ATV trails as well. From the Glovertown Recreation Complex, residents can access a groomed snowmobile trail/ ATV trail that is managed and maintained by The Terra Nova Trailriders 2005 Inc, a club of the Newfoundland Snowmobile Federation. At least one resident has stated that traditional connections to the snowmobile trails have been lost due to housing development. Regarding ATV's, there is a concern among residents with ATV's being driven on the main roads of Town. As well, ATV operators are damaging the environment by driving across the wetland in Ken Diamond Memorial Park

Walking is the most participated in physical activity in Glovertown. 95% of public survey respondents participate in walking and stakeholders also indicated walking is a well

participated- in activity in the Town. (Residents want to be able to walk safely year round and have asked throughout this plan's consultation process that an indoor walking track be built.

The need for a better connected trail system was stated. Residents also asked that walking trails be developed along the Marina. They have also asked that bicycle trails and shoulder extensions be provided that connect neighbourhoods the school. Students at Glovertown Academy have stated they would like to have Mountain Biking Trails. Mountain biking is an activity that is trending upwards, has an economic development benefit; Terra Nova Park has recognized this as a trend with young visitors.

An integrated trail system trail system could also include development of the cross country ski trail as per the existing development plan. A plan has already been completed by the Town in partnership with the Alexander Bay Ski Club. Many cross country ski trails are dual purposed - they are developed to support mountain biking.

A detailed concept plan will have to be developed before proceeding. The Town should develop a comprehensive plan describing the future trail connections priorities in the community. This plan should also include priorities for new community parks and components.

A key recommendation in the recently released provincial tourism study *Tourism Destination Visitor Appeal Assessment: Central Region* is to develop cluster based trail networks in the Central Region, connecting visitors to businesses and amenities and enhancing overall visitor experience to generate revenue and ensure long term sustainability.

The recommendation for this need will be addressed in Section 5.1.2.

5.1.2 MORE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS

Residents are generally very pleased with Ken Diamond Park. However, there is a gap in park facilities in the south side of Town, and in new developments (especially playgrounds). As well, children cannot access Ken Diamond on their bicycles as it is too far from their homes.

Residents have stated they want a number of specific amenities typically found in parks: dog park, a splash pad, a youth skate park, beach volleyball court, a beach, shuffle board, horse shoes, and lawn bowling. 71% of survey respondents think more neighbourhood parks for all age are needed, while the top two outdoor facilities identified as needed in Glovertown is a splash pad (77%) and dog park (75%). These two components are also among the top three outdoor facilities considered to be *very needed*; and the dog park is considered to be one of the top three facilities (indoor and outdoor) the town should commit funding to. A splash pad in Glovertown would draw visitors from the region and from TNNP.

***Recommendation:* That the Town consider the development of a comprehensive Parks and Trails Master Plan that identifies new parks and trails requirements and concepts.**

The priority for a dog park and splash pad will be addressed specifically in the next section.

5.1.3 AN IMPROVED GLOVERTOWN RECREATION COMPLEX

The Glovertown Recreation Complex is located next to the Ken Diamond Memorial Park, and the Newfoundland Snowmobiling Federation Quonset Hut and staging area. Together these three facilities form the community hub and center for recreation in Glovertown. Glovertown Recreation Complex contains the Glovertown Gardens arena, the recreation building, softball field, playground, community gardening plots, maintenance shed for the complex and Ken Diamond trails.

The Recreation Complex grounds is a potential site for many of the indoor and outdoor parks and recreation facilities and amenities that residents are seeking. The park would be an ideal

site for an indoor recreation complex if one is built. It is also an ideal site for a dog park and a splash pad.

In order to meet this need, a master plan for the site will need to be developed. The master plan will include concepts for locations for new facilities, concepts and recommendations for improvements to existing facilities, improved vehicular and pedestrian circulation, and order of magnitude costs for all recommended components of the site redevelopment.

Recommendation: Develop a master plan for Glovertown Recreation Complex.

5.1.4 A NEW COMBINED SPORTS FIELD AND FESTIVAL GROUNDS

Glovertown does not have a soccer field. The minor program is currently offered at the softball field, which has been working so far, as the program is still relatively new. Lack of a field limits the ability of the program to grow and the Town to host tournaments. Soccer is trending upwards, especially in the more populated areas of the province with artificial turf fields developed in St. John's, Conception Bay South, Mount Pearl and Corner Brook.

Given that the program in Glovertown is in its early stages of development, a multi-purpose field will serve a wider breadth of uses. A multi-purpose field can support outdoor games for teens, including pick-up games such as field hockey and ultimate Frisbee. The town could consider painting lines on the fields to support multiple uses including soccer, field hockey and, with the advent of rugby as a new sport in the 2016 Summer Olympics, rugby. And while these sports may never be played at the competitive level, such a field will support a variety of teen programs, and with programming, could serve to attract visitors to the community, especially from TNNP. It would also support programs for young children, and adults.

A priority of the Recreation Commission is a multi-purpose field and festival grounds. A multi-purpose field in the Town could expand the opportunity for regional festivals. The Town should work with the Commission to fundraise for this facility.

Recommendation: That the Town find a location for and build a multi-purpose field.

5.1.5 ENHANCED OPPORTUNITIES FOR WINTER RECREATION

The Town does not have formal cross country ski trails. It does however have a development plan that was prepared in 2014 in partnership with the volunteer-based Alexander Bay Ski Club. The ski club is currently inactive and will have to be re-established in order to move the plan forward. There are currently approximately 25 residents currently ski on walking trails in the Town. Cross country skiers from Glovertown currently drive to Gander to ski at the Airport Nordic Ski Club.

The estimated capital cost to develop the ski trail is \$139,000. However, the plan does not include lights. Without lighting, the ski trail could only be used during daylight hours. Skiers who work during the day would only be able to use the trail on weekends, thus reducing the actual hours the trail will actually be used. Therefore, before moving forward with the plan, the Town should consider lighting a section of the ski trail.

To move the plan forward, Council will need to acquire crown land and a dedicated volunteer ski club will need to be re-established. The Town will also need to confirm if the re-established ski club has the capacity to manage, program, and maintain a ski facility. In the meantime, the Town could partner with the club to groom a section of walking trails in the winter. A snowmobile and basic groomer will be required.

Snowmobile Trails

The Town of Glovertown is part of the Newfoundland and Labrador Snowmobile Federation: Terra Nova Trail Riders Club (2005) Inc. is dedicated to providing year round multi-use (snowmobile and ATV) trail access trails from Glovertown to the NL T’Railway. The staging area is located at the Glovertown Recreation Complex. The clubs mandate includes working with municipalities and other organizations to develop trails, making the club a potential partner in development of new snowmobiling (and ATV) trails in the Town. Its mandate also includes respecting and protecting habitat and educating its members to do this, and to practice safe snowmobiling and Atving. The Town should partner with the Terra Nova Trail Riders Club in its efforts to protect the environment form ATV damage.

Sliding Hill

A sliding hill was one of the top outdoor facilities public survey respondents considered to be needed in Glovertown, and was among the top two outdoor facilities respondents think the Town should commit funding to. The sliding hill can be located at the proposed cross country ski trail area at the Lions Club Chalet.

Recommendation: Confirm the demand exists for a cross country ski trail to ensure its viability and that the Alexander Bay Ski Club has the capacity to develop, manage, program and maintain it. If the ski trail is developed as per the existing plan, consider adding lights to a section of trail.

Recommendation: Designate a sliding hill on a north facing slope at the proposed site of the cross country ski trail, even if the ski facility is not built.

5.1.6 MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR WATER-BASED RECREATION

The Town of Glovertown is rich in freshwater and marine resources, providing numerous opportunities for recreation programming.

Marina

The Marina is run by the Glovertown Yacht Club, a private not for profit organization who are continuing to develop the marina to 100 berths and additional amenities. Canada Day Celebrations are held at the marina, and hosted by the Recreation Commission. It hopes the Town will one day assume responsibility of the marina. There is tremendous opportunity to offer marine based programs, such as sailing lessons, in the Town because of this asset.

Boat Launch

There are two public launches in the Town, both owned by the Town. The main boat launch on the north side of Town is very busy during the boating season. Both boat launches need infrastructure improvements: the central piers are in need of repair. The north side could be better organized to accommodate user needs; parking especially is not designated and there is a lack of public spaces. The site could be better landscaped to become more attractive to visitors,

especially given that tourist accommodations - Noah's – is also on site, and waterfront activities have universal appeal. The south side boat launch is less developed and more remote, located essentially in a residential neighbourhood. This boat launch could also be enhanced with improvements to the sites functionality and its landscapes. The boat launches also provide excellent opportunity for water-based programming, including kayaking and small recreational boating training.

The Town does not charge a fee to users of the boat launches.

Outdoor Nature Swimming Pools

Outdoor Nature swimming pools are considered by survey respondents to be among the top three facilities needed in Glovertown. It is the number one outdoor facility that respondents think the Town should commit funding to.

Residents currently swim at Terra Nova River, there is a diving board at this site, but this is not provided by or endorsed by the Town. An alternative to this site is an area below the damn at Ken Diamond Memorial Park. This site can be enhanced with decking or beach amenities that can be added to improve the enjoyment of the site, much the same as Margaret Bowater Park in Corner Brook.

Another potential outdoor nature pool site is located at Angle brook but the structural integrity of the Old Mill will need to be determined and monitored if this site is to be promoted as an outdoor nature swimming pool.

Recommendation: Develop concept plans for the boat launches and swimming area at Ken Diamond Memorial Park, and seek funding to redevelop these sites as tourism attractions.

5.2 INDOOR RECREATION FACILITY ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.2.1 NEW MULTI-PURPOSE COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRE

The need for indoor recreation facilities in Glovertown was identified by a number of community groups, Town Council and staff, and members of the general public. The spaces identified as needed included a gymnasium, fitness room, youth areas, an indoor walking track and multi-purpose program spaces.

The gymnasiums in Glovertown Academy are at capacity. Based on current demand, another gymnasium in the Town will create too much capacity in the community. The consultants believe a better option is for the Town to develop an indoor arena sized (25,000 sq. ft) multi-purpose sports turf that would serve the Central Newfoundland Region. Such a facility would support a variety of year round indoor sport programs, training and pick-up games, including adult and youth soccer, field hockey (popular with women), rugby, ultimate frisbee (a low cost sport with good fitness value), lacrosse (a growing sport in Canada), and indoor softball training. An indoor turf would also serve the school.

The gymnastics club, which serves 75 members, ideally would also benefit from such a facility. And while it would have to be confirmed, alternative options in the community could decrease demand of the school's small gymnasium, so that gymnastics would no longer be required to set up and take down equipment on Monday and Wednesday, thus allowing more practice time for the gymnasts.

83% of survey respondents think a new indoor multi-purpose facility is needed in Glovertown, and 34 % think it is *very* needed (components typically found in a multi-purpose centre, such as walking/running track and a fitness centre were considered very needed). As well, 64% of survey respondents said they would be very likely to use a new multi-purpose recreation centre if one were built in Glovertown

An ideal site for a new multi-purpose centre is the Recreation Complex. A site assessment to confirm suitability would be conducted as part of the Recreation Complex.

Recommendation: That the Town of Glovertown construct a multi-purpose recreation facility.

The potential components of the facility are an indoor sports facility, an indoor walking track, a fitness room, at least one multi-purpose program room, a dedicated teen room that can be used for other purposes during school hours, and a preschool room that can be used for other purposes. The multi-purpose room(s) should have a sink so arts programs and small social events can be held. In addition, offices and support spaces including storage areas will be required.

The fitness room should have sufficient areas for exercise machines, stretching and free weights. The multi-purpose room and pre-school room need to be designed for a variety of uses and have adequate storage. A café and social space should be included in the lobby space. Including program, office, circulation, storage and mechanical spaces, it is estimated that the facility will be in the area of 22,000 to 25,000 sq. ft.

This facility will meet a number of current and expanded program needs. It will also serve as a community gathering place, bring generations together and integrate new residents into the community.

Operational Plan

When the scope of the project has been verified in terms of the spaces to be included, an operational plan and projected operational budget should be developed. This includes program and operation staffing, schematic building design and site plan, preliminary capital development costs, utility and other maintenance cost estimates, and projected program costs and revenues.

Recommendation: That an operational plan, schematic design and capital costing budget be developed for the proposed community recreation centre prior to proceeding with detailed design and construction.

5.2.2 NEW YOUTH CENTRE

Youth Centre/Room

A Youth Centre is one of the most needed facilities in Glovertown. Students have stated they need a place to go rather than hanging out at the Irving station. It was felt that a youth centre where they could recreate and socialize would solve a lot of problems. Students suggested that counselling services should be available at the centre, pointing to the role the youth centre can fill in meeting youth health and well being issues.

Youth Centres work best in multi-purpose facilities where a variety of programming and fitness programs are available. A youth centre with a variety of recreational and social activities for teens ages 13-18 should be provided in Glovertown immediately. A temporary location should be identified (outside of the school) and programs offered to teens from this facility until the multi-purpose centre is constructed. The temporary centre should consist of or include a social room where youth have opportunities to develop physically, socially, emotionally and to gain a variety of skills including leadership. Typically, the youth centre would include computers with internet, gaming systems, pool tables, and other equipment such as foosball tables, card and board games. Fun events, learning opportunities and outings can be offered. The Centre will have to be either staffed or supervised by volunteers.

One option presented by residents is the former Riffs building, but this building is in a state of dilapidation.

93% of survey respondents felt that a youth centre is needed in the Town. And 90% think more programs are needed for teens.

Recommendation: That the Town immediately develop a youth centre at a temporary location. A youth room should be included in the new multi-purpose centre once it is built to optimize the provision of youth programs and activities.

5.2.3 A FITNESS CENTRE FOR STRENGTH AND CARDIOVASULAR TRAINING

Demand was very high for a fitness room. Consideration should also be given to finding a temporary location for a fitness room until the multi-purpose centre is built. A fitness centre would include cardiovascular equipment, free and plate loaded weights, selectorized weights (such as cable operated weight machines), and a stretching/warm-up/cool down space. It should be bright and welcoming.

Recommendation: That the Town immediately establish a fitness room at an appropriate space in the community.

5.2.4 A SMALL THEATRE FOR PREFORMING ARTS

Residents have stated a need for a small theatre with seating for approximately 50 people. House of Diamonds hosts musicians but the space is inadequate. The opportunity and feasibility of developing a small theatre should be investigated; it represents a tourism as well as recreation opportunity. A small heritage building converted into a theatre space, similar to the Heritage Theatre in Woody Point would be a draw. The Brooking House may be an option for a small theatre.

Recommendation: That developing a small theatre in the Town should be investigated and its feasibility assessed.

5.3 PROGRAM AND SERVICES DELIVERY

A broad range of program services are provided by the Town, community organizations and school related groups (e.g. the school gymnastics program is run by volunteers). The Town's Director of Recreation and Economic Development develops and supervises the summer recreation programs, Easter Egg Hunt and Christmas with Santa. She also supports community recreation organizations.

The lack of indoor facilities is a barrier to programs, for all age groups in the Town. The proposed multi-purpose recreation centre will be designed to support programs of all ages – preschoolers, children, youth, families, adults and seniors.

The Recreation Director will be responsible for planning for a variety of age groups and program types, and the new facility will allow additional fitness, arts and general interest programs. A focus should be on youth programs, especially leadership programs and outdoor nature orientated activities.

Recommendation: The proposed multi-purpose recreation center spaces should be designed to include and support programs for all age groups, including pre-school children and youth, and enhanced programming for all groups should be developed when the new facility is opened.

5.3.1 MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADDITIONAL AND ENHANCED FITNESS PROGRAMS

The demand for additional and enhanced fitness programs is high in Glovertown, with stakeholders and residents recognizing a need. Fitness, according to survey results, is the number one type of program needed in the Town. A new facility will allow residents to “drop in” on their own schedule, or to sign up to a greater variety of fitness classes. An indoor walking track is a key amenity for Glovertown.

Outdoor fitness opportunities should also be offered. Mountain biking competitions, water – based programs- such as kayaking, canoeing, and laser sailing programs, winter activities –

cross country skiing and snowshoeing are some examples of programs that can be offered using existing facilities (purchase and storage of kayaks or laser sails may be needed). Outdoor nature programs, including the Geocaching, can also be developed using existing resources.

5.3.2 MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR GENERAL INTEREST AND ARTS AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS

Artistic, cultural and special interest programs are an important component of leisure services and can also serve to attract visitors to the Town. Partnerships are a key component to offering these types of programs, as expertise is required. Glovertown has a unique opportunity as the House of Diamonds Art Centre is located in the town.

The House of Diamonds has an artist studio that offers workshops and art classes. Terra Nova National Park partners with the House of Diamonds in the summer. The challenge is that the House of Diamonds currently has no instructors and no resources to build an instructional program: it takes time, money and energy to coordinate an instructional art program. The House of Diamonds is no longer funded by the Fry Foundation. The Town should investigate building an arts program in partnership with the House of Diamonds, recognizing that the Town would need to, in all likelihood, assume a role in organizing, finding and funding instructors for this program.

One of the many benefits to providing artistic and cultural programs within a community is the economic benefit gained through the sale of crafts and performances. Artistic and cultural activities can also strengthen a community's sense of place and community ownership. Such programs can also unite a community by bringing together marginalized segments of the population as a means to include them in recreational and leisure activities within the community.

Recommendation: That the Town increase the fitness, art, culture and general interest program opportunities based on current opportunities and future capacity provided by the proposed new recreation center.

5.3.3 MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUTDOOR AND NATURE ORIENTATED ACTIVITIES

Children and teens today spend less time outside and more and more sedentary time with electronics. Outdoor and nature orientated activities benefit youth and teens in many ways and can support the development of basic and advanced skills, including leadership and survival skills. Experience in the outdoors and environmental education programs also foster an appreciation of nature and environmental stewardship in youth and also supports adult, senior and family activities.

With the existing trail system and access to Alexander Bay and Rivers, the Town can begin to offer outdoor and nature activities immediately. For instance, residents can learn safe recreation boating, canoeing, kayaking, and skills such as wind surfing. Programs can be offered to teach geocaching, wilderness survival skills and provide outdoor adventure. Outdoor education programs can include freshwater and forest ecosystem interpretation, potentially in partnership with TNNP. Outdoor and nature oriented programs/activities support economic development and can be cross promoted at TNNP.

Volunteers from the community or region can be recruited to offer outdoor and nature - orientated programs throughout various times of the year. For example military personnel at 9 Wing Gander Royal Canadian Air Force can be requested to offer short (regional) programs in Glovertown. The Program Director or Coordinator can identify potential partners in the community and region, and match programs based on existing resources.

Recommendation: That the Town enhance its existing program offerings and volunteer base to include more outdoor and nature orientated activities.

5.3.4 BETTER ACCESS TO FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Providing programs for persons with disabilities was not raised in the community consultations. However, survey participants think it is among the programs needed in the community.

Persons with disabilities include those with issues from restricted mobility, impairment or loss of hearing or vision, and developmental and learning challenges. Efforts to include people with disabilities should include general sports and activities/programs for the disabled. An accessibility audit of recreation facilities in the Town can identify what opportunities exist to make facilities more accessible and opportunities should be promoted playgrounds. New facilities should be designed for full accessibility.

The Provincial Government's *Access. Inclusion. Equality – A Provincial Strategy for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities* outlines 43 initiatives to improve accessibility and inclusion in Newfoundland and Labrador. For more information, see:

www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2015/swsd/0619n09.aspx.

The provincial government also provides “Inclusion Grants” to community organizations to create or improve the accessibility of the built environment, including buildings and facilities, playgrounds, sidewalks and boardwalks.

Recommendation: That the Town carry out an accessibility audit of its existing public-use facilities.

5.3.5 CONTINUED ACCESS TO PROGRAMS FOR PEOPLE WITH LOW INCOME

The Town has been doing a great job at ensuring people of low income are included in its programs. The recent cancellation of the Jumpstart Program in Glovertown will certainly have a negative impact on children who currently benefit from this support. An indication of the impact of fees on participation is the drop in participation what the Town introduced the low fee of \$25 for the soccer program or \$35 for combined soccer/softball program – enrollment dropped from 104 to 64 participants.

Low- income families include young families in low salaried careers, and those just starting out in their life as a family. Barriers to low income families include include, but are not limited to:

- ❖ **Financial:** Unable to afford to participate in the program or service.
- ❖ **Transportation:** Many youth do not have access to transportation. Trail network that connects facilities is important.
- ❖ **Equipment:** Unable to afford sports equipment.
- ❖ **Social Stigma:** Being uncomfortable in mainstream activities and environments, and not wanting to apply for subsidies or ask for help it will identify them as low income.
- ❖ **Time Restraints:** Parents too busy with work or other obligations to dedicate time towards recreation for themselves or their children.
- ❖ **Childcare:** Families with multiple children of various ages may require child-minding services so that another child can participate in an activity.
- ❖ **Lack of knowledge about recreation options:** Promotion of programs and services accessible to low-income individuals essential.

Recreational programs and services for low-income families and youth has been shown to have several beneficial outcomes for both the individual, family, and the community, including improved health and the potential to break the poverty cycle. For more information, see the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association website for publications and toolkits on making recreation more accessible for low-income children and families.

Recommendation: *Continue to offer programs inclusive to low-income youth and families. Continually evaluate and monitor the success of the programs.*

5.4 OPERATIONAL AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.4.1 DEVELOP A VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION STRATEGY

Many current programs including festivals and special events in Glovertown are offered by, or dependent on, volunteers. It was stated in the public meeting and stakeholder consultations that volunteers have committed their time and energy for a long period of time, sometimes more than a decade, and are fatigued. Volunteer burnout will eventually have an impact on recreation and leisure programs in Glovertown. Indeed, in some cases it is having an impact now with volunteers at the Ken Diamond House no longer able to provide art classes to the public due to the time required to coordinate such programs.

The Town should develop a recruitment and retention strategy to ensure long term volunteerism in Glovertown. The Recreation Director or her (future staff) should meet regularly with volunteers to determine their needs and challenges, and determine how the Town can provide support. In some cases, the Town may have to assume some tasks in order to ensure successful programs (coordinating instructors and schedules for art programs for example, or helping Gymnastics recruit volunteers, or back-up volunteers, to set up and take down equipment.). The strategy should address recruiting teen residents and developing their leadership skills. The Recreation Director may want to reach out to other municipalities in Newfoundland to learn from their experience with successful strategies.

Recommendation: That the Town develop a Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Strategy.

Arena User Group Meetings

Following the theme of providing support to volunteers, it is critical that the Arena manager meet with all user groups to ensure a fair and equitable schedule. This meeting was not held in 2015 with the Terra Nova Tornadoes Figure Skating Club (this is the first year the meeting did not happen). Consequently, the figure skating club lost four Friday nights of scheduled ice time

to hockey tournaments, and were challenged to book ice time throughout the season. Communication between the arena manager and a designated figure skating club leader is the key to ensuring fair ice time

Recommendation: Ensure arena user group meetings are held at the beginning of each ice season to avoid scheduling conflicts throughout the year.

5.4.2 STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP WITH GLOVERTOWN ACADEMY

Glovertown Academy was built as a community school 40 years ago. The school is supportive of community recreation and offers its gymnasium to several organizations. The public library is also located in the school. The school also has a multi-purpose room with an exterior entrance, a large kitchen, a music room, and an industrial arts programs.

The school uses municipal recreation facilities for its physical education programs: students use the arena and facilities at Recreation Grounds.

Many municipalities across Canada have joint use agreements with school districts. To avoid duplication of facilities, equipment and programs, and to maximize use of available facilities to provide optimum benefits to the entire community, the Town should begin discussions immediately with the school to develop a shared use agreement for existing recreation facilities and a new multi-purpose facility. A starting point for discussions will be how the Town can assist Glovertown Academy and its students in the upcoming school year, and how the school can assist the community by enhancing access to its program room and other facilities.

For a sample agreement, see ***Appendix D: Joint Use Agreement.***

Recommendation: That the Town begin discussions with the principal of Glovertown Academy and the Nova Central School District with the intent to develop a Joint Use Agreement.

5.4.3 MORE DEFINED ROLE FOR RECREATION COMMISSION

The Recreation Commission is a non-profit volunteer board whose role is defined by the Glovertown Recreation Commission Regulations/Constitution. The commission is currently focused on fundraising for new recreation facilities, and festival programming – it runs the Canada Day Festivities, Alexander Bay Days and Winter Carnival, and operates the Recreation Complex recreation building.

The commission has stated that there is a disconnect between the Town and the commission, and that it is not kept aware of the Town's plans. It also feels that their biggest issue is that its role keeps being redefined, resulting in confusion of what the Town is responsible for and what the Recreation Commission is responsible for. The commission was established before the Town hired a Recreation Director.

The Recreation Commission has developed an expertise in festival planning and fundraising. Festivals play an important role in all communities, and Glovertown is no exception. Festivals enrich communities socially and economically: it brings the community together to celebrate and is a draw for tourists. Festivals allow the community to celebrate what is special to its residents, reinforces the sense of identity and attachment residents have to their community, and breathe life into the Town - whatever the season. The role of festivals in Glovertown as a community builder and a tourism product cannot be overstated.

The *Tourism Destination Visitor Appeal Assessment Central Region* recognizes the role festivals and events have as travel generators and the opportunity to grow tourism based on festivals. The TDVAA study recommends municipalities take a regional approach to schedule and promote its festivals. Since the Town now has a Recreation Director and staff that can assume, and have assumed, the objectives outlined in the Recreation Commission Constitution, and because festivals require tremendous resources to plan, promote and run, for which volunteers are essential, it is recommended that the Glovertown Recreation Commission redefine its role to focus on the planning, promotion of implementation of festivals, with some festivals planned and promoted in a regional context as a tourism generator. The commission should continue

with fundraising, but all funds raised will support improvements to festival infrastructure and offerings. Consider renaming the organization the *Glovertown Festivals Commission*.

Recommendation: Revise the Recreation Commission Constitution role to planning, promoting, fundraising and running festivals in the Town of Glovertown.

5.4.4 BETTER PROMOTION OF RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Residents would like to be better informed of all that is available in the Town of Glovertown. Promotion of recreation facilities and programs could even be expanded to include programs available on the Eastport Peninsula, Gander, and Terra Nova National Park. This could be the role of the Recreation Director.

Recommendation: That the Town develop a printed and electronic format to promote all program offerings available in Town of Glovertown and Region, including Terra Nova Park.

5.4.5 USE RECREATION AND PARKS AS A VEHICLE FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Parks and recreation facilities and programs can attract visitors to Glovertown. The recently completed Central NL Tourism Destination Visitor Appeal Assessment Study highlights several opportunities appropriate to Glovertown: opportunity for marine and land –based visitor experiences to be aligned and marketed, year round visitor experiences, and trails and trail network. The Town should review the CNLDVAA study and consider seeking funding for amenities that can be cross purposed with recreation.

The Town should also continue pursuing opportunities in partnership with Terra Nova National Park. Glovertown is a common destination for TNNP visitors, and in 2008 was the most visited community by TNNP guests. TNNP offers the Junior Interpretation Program in the community and welcomes Glovertown residents to its facilities and programs.

Recommendation: That the Town continue to partner with Terra Nova Park and explore new opportunities, facilities and programs that can be developed in Glovertown to attract TNNP visitors.

5.4.6 NEED FOR DEDICATED PERSONELL TO IMPLEMENT MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to meet the recreation needs of the community, as reflected in the recommendations of this Recreation Master Plan, the role of the Economic Development/Recreation Director will have to be dedicated exclusively to recreation.

Recommendation: That the role of the Economic Development/Recreation Director be dedicated exclusively to recreation in the Glovertown.

6.0 SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND PRIORITIES

The recommendations presented in the previous section and associated cost estimates have been summarized in Table 7 and Table 8 below.

Table 7: Recommendations and Priorities:

Summary of Final Leisure and Recreation Priorities	Priority	Timeframe (yr)
1. That the Town consider the development of a comprehensive Parks and Trails Master Plan that identifies new parks and trails requirements and concepts.	Medium	3-5
2. Develop a master plan for Glovertown Recreation Complex	Medium	3-5
3. That the Town consider finding a location for and building a multi-purpose field	High	2 2018
4. Confirm the demand exists for a cross country ski trail to ensure its viability and that the Alexander Bay Ski Club has the capacity to develop, manage, program and maintain it. If the ski trail is developed as per the existing plan consider adding lights to a section of trail.	Medium	3 2019
5. Designate a sliding hill on a north facing slope at the proposed site of the cross country ski trail even if the ski facility is not built.	Highest	1 2017
6. Develop concept plans for the existing boat launches and new swimming area at the Ken Diamond Memorial Park, and seek funding to redevelop these sites as tourism amenities.	High	Outdoor nature pool: 1-2 2017-2018 Boat Launches: 3 2020
7. That the Town construct a multi-purpose recreation facility.	Medium	4-5 2022

Summary of Final Leisure and Recreation Priorities	Priority	Timeframe (yr)
8. That an operational plan, schematic design and capital costing budget be developed for the proposed multi-purpose recreation facility prior to proceeding with detailed design and construction.	Medium	4-5 2022
9. That the Town immediately develop a youth centre at a temporary location. A youth room should be included in the new multi-purpose centre once it is built to optimize the provision of youth programs and activities.	Highest	1 2017
10. That the Town immediately establish a fitness room in an appropriate space in the community.	Highest	1 2017
11. That developing a small theatre in the Town should be investigated and its feasibility assessed.	Medium	4-5 2022
12. The proposed multi-purpose recreation center spaces should be designed to include and support programs for all age groups, including pre-school children and youth, and enhanced programming for all these groups should be developed when the new facility is opened.	Medium	4-5 2022
13. That the Town increase the fitness, art, culture and general interest program opportunities based on current opportunities and future capacity provided by the proposed new recreation center.	Highest	1 2017
14. That the Town enhance its existing program offerings and volunteer base to include more outdoor and nature orientated activities.	High	2-3 2017
15. That the Town carry out an accessibility audit of its existing public-use facilities.	Highest	1
16. Continue to offer programs inclusive to low-income youth and families. Continually evaluate and monitor the success of the programs.	Ongoing	Ongoing

Summary of Final Leisure and Recreation Priorities	Priority	Timeframe (yr)
17. That the Town develop a Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Strategy.	Highest	1 2017
18. Ensure arena user group arena meetings are held at the beginning of every ice season to avoid scheduling conflicts throughout the year.	Highest	Ongoing
19. That the Town begin discussions with the principal of Glovertown Academy and the Nova Central School District with the intent to develop a Joint Use Agreement.	High	2-3 2016
20. That the Town develop a printed and electronic format to promote all program offerings available in Town of Glovertown and Region, including Terra Nova Park.	Highest	1 2017
21. Revise the Recreation Commission role to planning, promoting, fundraising for and running festivals in the Town of Glovertown.	Highest	1 2017
22. That the Town continue to partner with Terra Nova Park and explore new opportunities, facilities and programs that can be developed in Glovertown to attract TNNP visitors.	Highest	Ongoing
23. That the role of the Economic Development/Recreation Director be dedicated exclusively to recreation in the Glovertown.	Highest	1 2016

Table 8: Preliminary Cost Estimates

Tract Consulting Inc.

Summary of Final Leisure and Recreation Priorities	Study/Plan Cost Estimate	Infrastructure Cost Estimate
Comprehensive Parks and Trails Master Plan	\$67,000	ACOA and BTCRD will consider funding such a plan
Master plan for Glovertown Recreation Complex	\$25,000	\$20,000-\$50,000 for dog park Splash Pad: \$150,000-\$ 200,000 Infrastructure
Multi-purpose Field		\$250,000-\$300,000
Confirm demand for a cross country ski trail	n/a	In house activity
Illuminate section of cross country trail if developed		Approximately \$80,000 per km \$150 month to operate
Designate a sliding hill at proposed the cross country ski trail site	n/a	\$8500-\$12,000 for site preparation
Concept plans and costing for enhanced boat launches and swimming area (s)	\$15,000-\$17,500	
Multi-purpose Recreation Facility		Approximately 7 M
Operational plan, schematic design and capital costing budget for the Multi-purpose recreation Centre	\$ 37,500	
Youth Centre at a temporary location.		Equipment, rental and utilities, staff
A temporary fitness room		\$100,000 for equipment \$100 sq. ft. for building renovations
Increased programs that can be offered before and after multi-purpose facility is built	n/a	In house activity Recreation Director position should be fully dedicated to recreation
Assess feasibility of developing Investigate a small theatre location and	\$15,000	
More outdoor and nature orientated activities.		In house activity; \$10,000 for equipment

Summary of Final Leisure and Recreation Priorities	Study/Plan Cost Estimate	Infrastructure Cost Estimate
Accessibility audit of existing public-use facilities.	\$2500	In house activity
Offer programs inclusive to low-income youth and families.	n/a	In house activity Some equipment may be required
Develop a Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Strategy.	n/a	In house activity
Develop a Joint Use Agreement with the School District	n/a	In house activity
Revise the Recreation Commission Constitution to align its purpose with implementing Glovertown Recreation Master Plan.	n/a	In house activity
Develop a printed and electronic format brochure	n/a	In house activity Printing costs of brochure
Ensure arena user group arena meetings are held at the beginning of every ice season	n/a	In house activity
Continue to partner with Terra Nova Park and explore new opportunities, facilities and programs that can be developed in Glovertown to attract TNNP visitors.	n/a	In house activity