



## Highlights of the Resort Village of Candle Lake 20 Year Master Plan for Parks, Open Spaces and Trails

Over the past number of years, the Resort Village of Candle Lake (RVCL) has been experiencing strong economic growth in residential development and continued growth of annual summertime visitors.

The RCVL understands there is a need to strengthen and improve outdoor amenities that currently exist throughout Candle Lake, particularly as they relate to tourism, outdoor recreation, and neighbourhood level development, while also respecting the natural environment. These pressures, coupled with past unplanned development, led to the need to develop a plan to guide the evolution and improvements of RVCL parks, open spaces, and the trail system.

The role of the 20 Year Parks, Open Space and Trails Master Plan (the Master Plan) is to serve as a comprehensive document to guide the Resort Village in future development, improvements and use of parks, open spaces, and trail networks. It provides an overall viewpoint for planning environments that contribute to the building of an exemplary community. It is intended to be a document specific enough in nature to inform park, open space, and trail development, and general enough to be adaptable to changing conditions. Recommendations for future proposed development should use the Master Plan document as a template for planning spaces left over through existing development, and at the beginning of the land use planning process of new development plans.

The Master Plan prioritizes social and physical connections to effectively provide accessible neighbourhood recreation and park open space, while keeping the beauty of Candle Lake top of mind. It includes recommendations to meet the needs of residents and visitors for the next 20 years. A broad array of perspectives and responses were collected through the various engagement methods including a Needs and Demand Survey, and stakeholder engagement.

When implemented, the Master Plan will help RCVL be seen as an advanced and progressive place to live and visit, with an enhanced sense of place and identity. Other benefits include a significant boost in diversity of recreational opportunities for local and seasonal residents and visitors, physical and social connection for all of Candle Lake, additional revenue from identified projects, improved safety for pedestrians and cyclists, and an added range of accessible high-quality infrastructure to encourage increased exercise, leisure, health, and well-being.

The RVCL commissioned Crosby Hanna & Associates and Wallace Insights to develop the Master Plan. The work to develop the Master Plan was guided by RVCL Staff, including the Department of Recreation and Community Development, and Council. Stakeholder and public consultation occurred throughout all stages of the Master Plan development.

## Approach and Methodology

The approach to producing the Master Plan included the following major activities:

- Gathering background data and review of documents to provide a baseline understanding of the RVCL's existing open space system and plans, as constraints to future implementation and opportunities to build on.
- Consulting with the public, key stakeholders, and Council.
- Identification of goals and key ideas to work towards in developing Candle Lake's open space and trails system. Identifying the range of open space, parks and trail types that are desired and to utilize as a tool in assessing RVCL's existing amenities and identifying gaps and needs.
- Identification of issues and opportunities.
- Development of a concept plan to address the issues and opportunities, to illustrate the vision, and to provide an overall framework for parks, open space, and trails.
- Preparation of the Master Plan including background and analysis, public consultation, Master Plan, implementation, and conclusion.

## Public Engagement

The following individuals, committees, and groups met with the Consultant Team throughout the development of the Master Plan:

### *Recreational Interests and User Groups*

- Candle Lake Trails Advisory Board
- Candle Lake Parks and Recreation Board
- Communities in Bloom
- Candle Lake Health Committee
- Candle Lake Sno Drifters
- Candle Lake Seniors Club
- Pickleball
- Badminton
- Fitness
- Ducks Unlimited

### *Business*

- Candle Lake Chamber of Commerce
- Candle Lake Golf Resort
- Candlewood Cove Marina

### *Regional Stakeholders and Facilities*

- Candle Lake Provincial Park
- RM of Paddockwood
- Ministry of Environment – Wildfire mitigation program; ecological management

### *Resort Village of Candle Lake*

- Council and Administration

Engagement opportunities were provided through on-site events, displays, the RVCL website, newsletter, and a survey. Once the Master Plan was drafted, several 'pop-up' events were held throughout the Spring and Summer 2022 to dialogue with residents about the preliminary Master Plan considerations.

## The Master Plan

The Master Plan identifies a number of major improvements and opportunities to existing infrastructure and amenities within Candle Lake and surrounding areas. As a popular destination and community, the RVCL understands the need to improve on established amenities, built upon assets, and address gaps to achieve the goals of the Master Plan.

### *Core Area*

- Torch lake
- Main Street
- Bay Lake and Market Square

### *Park, Open Space and Trail Types*

- Neighbourhood Park
- Conservation Park
- Major Park
- Destination Park and Special-Purpose Park
- Primary Paths / Trails
- Secondary Paths / Trails

### *Park and Open Space Amenity Specific Improvements*

- Day Camping and Picnic Sites
- Beaches
- Community Garden
- Play Spaces and Outdoor Fitness
- Winter Activities and Sports
- Adventure Park
- Pump Track

### *Trail Amenity Specific Improvements*

- Pedestrian and Cycling Trails
- Trail Activities
- Parking
- Boundary Demarcation and Control Access
- ATV Use

## Implementing the Master Plan

The Master Plan includes the following implementation strategies:

1. Invest in repairs, and on-going maintenance to meet safety and accessibility requirements.
2. Commission studies and reviews as a pre-requisite to major improvements.
3. Commit to seeking sources of funding and revenue and establishing partnerships and cost-sharing opportunities.
4. Assess successes and monitor progress each year to determine the best course of action for full implementation.

The Plan identifies actions and groups them according to their priority (Highest, High, Moderate, Low) and in phases.

- Phase 1: Establishment Period (Years 1 - 3)
- Phase 2: Enhancement and Expansion Period (Years 4 - 7)
- Future Phase (F): 7+ Years

## Considerations

The strategies included in the Plan will be coordinated with other RVCL planning documents including:

- The North Central Lakelands District Official Community Plan (2013) lays out General Objectives and Policies for Candle Lake in Part B and E
- Environmental and Carrying Capacity Study (2014)
- The Resort Village of Candle Lake Zoning Bylaw (2016)
- Candle Lake Sustainability Plan (on-going)
- Candle Lake Public Reserve Policy
- Resort Village of Candle Lake ATV Bylaw (2021)

To preserve lake health and fish habitat, and to protect environmental and ecological sensitive areas in Candle Lake, a number of environmental considerations were identified:

- Limit future proposed Marina development to help alleviate unsustainable growth/crowding of motorized boats on Candle Lake.
- Identify beach and waterfront park areas that are vulnerable to human and climate change impacts and develop nature-based strategies to mitigate any potential issues should be employed for areas of concern.
- Develop non-motorized boating along Torch Lake to alleviate Candle Lake pressures and congestion.
- Further inventory environmentally and ecologically significant areas for information to be used in the future.
- Acquire and dedicate environmental and ecologically sensitive areas as Environmental Reserves and Conservation Parks as a means of protecting these areas from unwanted development.
- Commission of Wildfire Management in collaboration with the Province of Saskatchewan should be implemented and include noted concern areas suitable for thinning.

## Master Plan Action Item Summary

### **Objective: Protect the Environment**

Candle Lake is clean and beautiful. Its protection is as important as our enjoyment of it.

#### *Phase 1 Actions:*

- Inventory environmentally and ecologically significant areas in and adjacent to RVCL.
- Develop Torch and Bay Lakes as park areas to alleviate pressure at Candle Lake (suited to conservation and celebration of ecologically significant areas with non-motorized use only).
- Design interpretive signage for ecological and environmental areas.
- Consolidate private docks into allocated marinas and regulate new marina development to alleviate environmental pressures and retain intended use for neighbourhood beaches.
- Acquire and dedicate environmentally sensitive areas as ER lands as a means of protecting these areas from unwanted development.
- Identify existing beaches and waterfront park areas vulnerable to human and climate change impacts, and review and implement nature-based strategies to mitigate potential impacts.

#### *Phase 2 Actions:*

- Implement signage.

### **Objective: Support Volunteer Groups**

Candle Lake has benefited from great community spirit. People are good neighbours to each other. Dedicated volunteers take on a wide range of tasks important to community safety and quality of life. Continued citizen engagement is vital. Volunteer groups contribute to the beauty and enjoyment of Candle Lake. There are opportunities to support these efforts and continue to grow community pride and sense of place.

#### *Actions Within All Phases:*

- Provide ongoing support for, and coordination of, the efforts of the Parks and Recreation Board and the Trails Advisory Board, both of which are highly valued in our community.
- Continue recruitment of protective service volunteers and other volunteers.

### **Objective: Enhance Existing Trails**

The network of existing trails is beloved. There are opportunities for enhancements.

#### *Actions Within All Phases:*

- Maintain accessibility of trails through all seasons.

#### *Phase 1 Actions:*

- Continue to enhance and restore existing trails; re-naturalize rogue trails.
- Design comprehensive trail signage.

- Install control access barriers and boundary markers for pedestrian and cycling trails to limit vehicular use.

*Phase 2 Actions:*

- Improve existing parking and formalize parking at major trailheads.
- Implement visitor infrastructure at trailheads and along trails.
- Improve barrier-free wheelchair accessible design near core routes.
- Conduct an inventory of existing ATV trails throughout the Resort Village and adjacent areas.

*Future Phase Actions:*

- Develop an ATV designated trail network suitable for recreational and off-road use.
- Design a linear boardwalk park through Bay Lake.

**Objective: Expand Trail Network**

*Phase 1 Actions:*

- Develop design guidelines and path and trail standards to offer consistent treatment of new trails.

*Phase 2 Actions:*

- Implement a Linear Park.

*Actions Within All Phases:*

- Expand the network to connect neighbourhoods to major destinations and each other, providing an alternative transportation network throughout the community.
- Partner with Provincial Parks/Owners to connect trail networks to the Resort Village's designated trail system.

**Objective: Expand Recreation Opportunities**

There are several popular hubs and locations that present opportunities for recreation.

*Phase 1 Actions:*

- Complete wildfire thinning for existing MR Lands suited for open space or park space conversion; maintain buffers and tree cover.
- Establish soft launch and day picnicking parks along Torch Lake, with revenue opportunities for equipment rentals.

*Phase 2 Actions:*

- Establish a central hub for large gatherings, festivals, and community events.
- Implement parking spaces for all new destinations created.
- Acquire and formalize community park space to ensure residents are within a 15-minute walk of a recreation focused park.
- Acquire and formalize additional park spaces as noted on the plan for new recreation opportunities.

*Future Phase Actions:*

- Establish a destination Adventure Park and Pump Track.
- Implement winter design principles and new winter recreation opportunities.

**Objective: Enhance Existing Parks**

*Phase 1 Actions:*

- Create design and furnishing guidelines for parks for consistent identity throughout the Resort Village.
- Undertake a playground program to ensure families and children of all ages and abilities have access to local play spaces.

*Phase 2 Actions:*

- Develop and expand on a park signage standard for wayfinding, regulatory, etiquette, caution and safety, and entrance signs.
- Name existing and newly created parks.
- Convert open spaces into developed parks on neighbourhood and major park levels.
- Implement an outdoor fitness space with all-ages equipment.

*Actions Within All Phases:*

- Enhance existing parks with amenities to support small gatherings (benches, picnic tables, picnic shelters, lounge chairs at beach areas, and waste and recycling receptacles. Arrange site furnishings to maximize views and promote conservation.

*Future Phase Actions:*

- Provide infrastructure and amenities to support winter activities and encourage winter recreation and festivals (fire pit areas, clearing of park paths, pathway lighting, skating rinks or ponds, shelters, and wind screening through evergreen trees (Also in Phase 2).

*Note: This documentary provides a summary of the Master Plan. The detailed Resort Village of Candle Lake 20 Year Master Plan for Parks, Open Spaces and Trails can be found on the RVCL website at [Candlelake.ca](http://Candlelake.ca) under Resort Village Office. The detailed plan includes information on all research conducted in the development of the Master Plan, engagement activities, implementation strategies and the action plan.*