

Policy: Access to Recreation	Effective Date: June 3, 2014
	Revision Date:

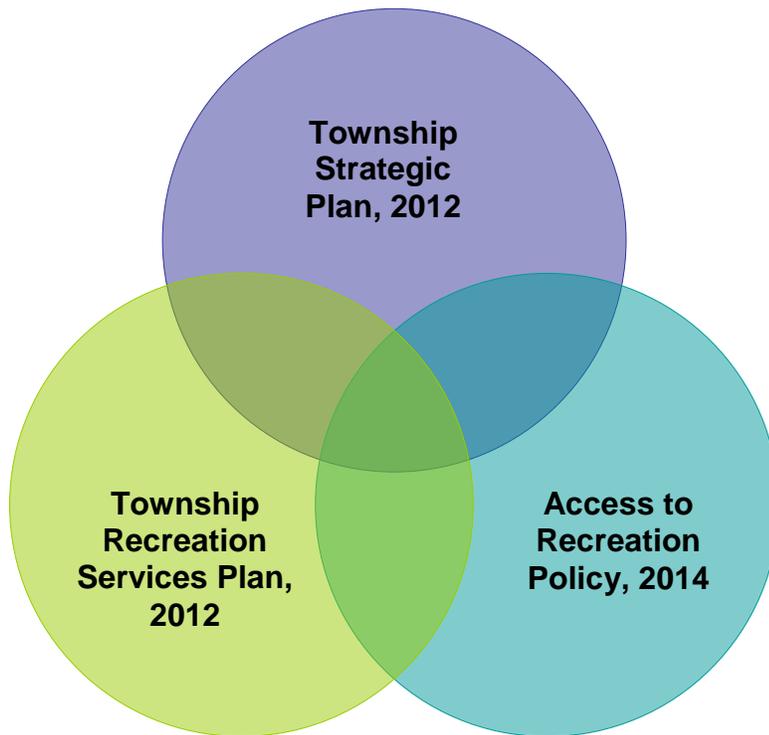
Access to Recreation Policy

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to reduce barriers and increase access to participation in recreation, ensuring that as many residents of the Township as possible have access to recreation and cultural programs, parks and open spaces and community facilities.

Context:

1. Foster a healthy, engaged and connected community
2. Cultivate partnerships and promote collaboration
3. Achieve excellence in governance and service delivery



1. Support for local volunteer organizations to help build capacity
2. Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) where Township works with organizations to address local recreation needs
3. Review fee structures for facilities in relation to the desired level of cost recovery and focus on areas such as affordability.

1. Reduce barriers
2. Increase access to participation in recreation
3. Increase access for all to all cultural and recreation programs, parks and open spaces, and community facilities in the Township

The Township of Selwyn believes that recreation is an essential service and recognizes the importance of resident participation in recreation activities. The Township is committed to developing and maintaining recreation facilities, parks, trails, natural areas, heritage and cultural assets to ensure residents have access to recreational experiences. Working with community stakeholders, the Township is committed to supporting, within budgetary limits, a broad range of recreation programs and services. Services, facilities and programs will be planned, delivered and evaluated with the goal to be affordable, inclusive and responsive to community need.

Scope:

This policy extends to facilities, services and programs either directly delivered by the Township or with individuals and organizations working in partnership with or on behalf of the Township.

Objectives:

1. Deliver/facilitate affordable services, facilities and programs that are planned in ways that address local needs and issues.
2. Strive to support a variety of core programs and/or facilities that are available for children, youth, adults, seniors and families at a reasonable cost so that financial status of an individual is not a determining factor to their ability to participate.
3. Work towards reducing physical barriers in Township operated facilities and parks and provide adaptive equipment where feasible.
4. Assist community partners, whenever possible, in the fulfillment of their mandates (resources, consultation, facilities and equipment, etc).
5. Advocate for persons with exceptionalities in the areas of policy development and facility and service planning.
6. Ensure financial assistance information is available (e.g. JumpStart, etc.)

Principles:

The following principles are fundamental in all Township decision making:

1. Recreation is an essential service and is conducive to the well-being/quality of life in the community.
2. Recreation is a wise financial investment and contributes to savings in health, social service and justice costs.
3. A wide range of recreational and cultural opportunities, facilities and services foster a healthier community lifestyle.
4. Community-minded citizens fulfill essential roles in advocacy, stewardship and service delivery and provide enriched opportunities for participation.
5. Residents will be encouraged to participate regardless of age, ability, ethnic diversity or circumstance.

Definitions (where applicable):

Facilities: A physical structure/space that is built, installed or established to serve a particular use or purpose.

Financial Assistance: Refers to an approved reduction and/or subsidy to offset costs of participation in an activity or service through a process that is non-intrusive, eliminates stigma and is respectful of a person's dignity and confidentiality.

Parks/Trails: Outdoor areas designated for recreational activities and/or to enhance the beauty of or preserve the natural features of the Township.

Recreation Programs: Voluntarily pursued activities of a recreation, sport, art or cultural nature that may be self-directed or instructional, providing skill development, social inclusion and/or increased physical health in a particular leisure pursuit. Programs may be introductory or specialty and are of an on-going nature. In some instances, fees are charged to offset the costs associated with the provision of the activity.

Services: Recreational opportunities available to participants and general Township support for an initiative, program or event.

User Group: An organization or group that makes use of a recreation or parks facility.

Administration

Procedures and Practices may be amended or added to the Access to Recreation Policy as necessary and appropriate in order to ensure that it is current and applicable. Such amendments or additions shall be approved by Resolution of Council and be coordinated with, and form part of this Policy.

Procedures

Appendix A outlines the procedures and practices to follow in the context of this policy statement.