



building communities together

2019 Business Plan 108 Greenbelt (1548)

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Working in partnership with communities, large and small, to make the Cariboo Chilcotin a socially, economically and environmentally desirable region to live, work and play.

Department/Function Services

The 108 Greenbelt Service was established through Bylaw No. 3120 (1996) and received boundary amendments by way of Bylaw No. 3960 (2007) and Bylaw No. 4450 (2009). The service was created to provide for the management of the 108 Greenbelt lands, which cover approximately 575 hectares throughout the 108 Mile Ranch community and provide opportunities for public recreation. Bylaw No. 4569 (2010) regulates appropriate community use of the recreation lands, restricting activities such as motorized vehicle use, parking, camping, open fires and discharging firearms.

The 108 Greenbelt provides much the same function as a public green space in other communities. These lands, originally established by Block Bros. Realty at the conception of the 108 Mile Ranch development, generally encompass lakeshore, grasslands and forested lands located within and immediately adjacent to the community. The Greenbelt was established to provide property owners a joint interest in these lands for recreational use. Now held under title by the Cariboo Regional District, the lands continue to be utilized for the enjoyment of area residents with the intent to minimize interference with the lands' "natural" or existing states.

The requisition limit for this function is the greater of \$14,160 or \$0.13/\$1,000 of assessment. Collection is by parcel tax, which is applied equally to all lots within the local service area.

Under the direction and authority of the Cariboo Regional District Board, the property is managed by the 108 Greenbelt Commission whose members are appointed by the Board on recommendation of the Electoral Area G Director. The Commission meets monthly to conduct business and engages contractors as required for the maintenance and operation of the greenbelt.

As the Electoral Area G Director is the only stakeholder in this function, and the *Local Government Act* requires more than one vote, the entire Board is responsible for the governance of this service.

Business Plan Goals, Rationale & Strategies

2019 Goals

- 1. Goal:** Assess Greenbelt pockets inside the community to identify and address whatever additional fuel management may be required.

Rationale: Most of these areas were treated in the past decade but the Commission believes more work is needed now to reduce the threat of a serious interface fire, especially where there has been significant beetle-kill in recent years.

Strategy: Consulting services will be retained to complete the assessments under the guidance of the Greenbelt Commission with support from CRD staff. Some but perhaps not all resulting fuel reduction costs may be offset by logging revenues. External funding sources and grants may be available to recover some costs.
- 2. Goal:** Maintain the extensive trail system around the lakes, including the low mobility trails established in recent years.

Rationale: A 10-km multi-use trail system extends around 108 and Sepa Lake, most of which is now wheelchair accessible, including the availability of handicap outhouses at Main Beach and Sepa Lake.

Strategy: Much work has gone into bringing these trails to their current standard and they are well used and appreciated by residents of the community and tourists alike. These trails must be properly maintained so they can be enjoyed for years to come. Further improvements will continue to be made if funding becomes available from grants or other sources. Trail maintenance also includes the emergency exit that has been established through the Greenbelt to Tatton Road, a multi-use trail in Walker Valley, numerous Greenbelt access trails, etc.
- 3. Goal:** Preserve the Greenbelt from invasive plants.

Rationale: The Greenbelt is continually attacked by a number of invasive plants, such as knapweed, burdock, thistle, orange hawkweed, meadow hawkweed, baby's breath, hoary alyssum, bladder campion, scentless chamomile, leafy spurge and sea buckthorn, which impact recreational and agricultural use of the lands.

Strategy: The Commission will work with the Invasive Plant Program of the Cariboo Regional District at reducing, controlling or eliminating wherever possible, invasive plants in an environmentally sound manner while respecting financial limitations. This is an ongoing project and will remain so for the foreseeable future. This task has become quite overwhelming. The Commissioner who volunteers his time to this important work will likely require the support of contract assistance in the years ahead.
- 4. Goal:** Continue to upgrade pasture fences.

Rational: Repairs and fencing upgrades are an ongoing responsibility to keep horses and cattle in the various Greenbelt pastures and to keep ATVs and dirt bikes out of sensitive Greenbelt grasslands.

Strategy: Evaluate existing fences. Repair and upgrade as needed. This is an ongoing responsibility.

- 5. Goal:** Access forest health treatments relative to fir bark beetle and other infestations.
Rationale: Fir bark beetle attacks continue to impact Greenbelt forested areas. These trees increase the risk of fire as well as encourage the beetle spread to nearby healthy trees.
Strategy: Locate and aggressively treat beetle infestation. The treatments may include felling, bucking and burning of trees, and installation of pheromone bait traps. Removal and sale of logs will vary depending on the conditions at each site. The Commission will also identify and address opportunities to educate the residents of the 108 and encourage them to tackle this issue if it exists on their properties.
- 6. Goal:** Remove dead and dying trees in areas where they present a danger to residents and visitors.
Rationale: This is an ongoing responsibility, particularly with respect to beetle-killed fir trees and old, rotten aspens.
Strategy: Contract services will be retained to remove danger trees as required under the direction of the Commission.
- 7. Goal:** Consider installing community infrastructure such as new playground equipment at Main Beach and a nature viewing platform beside 108 Lake.
Rationale: Up until now, the capital budget has not been sufficient to undertake major projects like these for the use and enjoyment of the community while maintaining an appropriate reserve. Logging revenues received in 2018 may now provide an opportunity to take on these infrastructure projects – a positive long lasting legacy from a devastating wildfire.
Strategy: If the Commission confirms it has a sufficient reserve to take on one or both of these projects it will work with appropriate stakeholders to design and install appropriate facilities.

Overall Financial Impact

The 2019 requisition is the same as the 2018 requisition.

The parcel tax is augmented by revenue generated from pasture rental fees, which is retained by the Greenbelt Commission for day-to-day maintenance expenses, and from grants that become available from time to time. The Commission has been diligent in developing a practical approach to meeting its goals and objectives over the past few years while staying within budget limitations. Opportunities to obtain grants to further the Commission's work are aggressively pursued.

Significant revenues resulting from timber sales during wildfire hazard fuel management projects are retained in reserve for future capital projects.

Measuring Previous Year Performance

Goal: Assess the fire-impacted areas of the Greenbelt to determine if rehabilitation activities or further fire prevention measures are necessary.

- Dead and severely stressed trees were removed and a significant fuel reduction program was undertaken in the remaining Greenbelt on the far side of Walker Valley, including two Greenbelt triangles on the west side of the tracks in Fall 2018. Rehabilitation will be undertaken as appropriate in the years ahead.

Goal: Maintain the extensive trail system around the lakes, including the low mobility trails established in recent years.

- Completed and ongoing. The trails continue to be maintained to a high standard. In 2018, the low mobility trail around Sepa Lake was resurfaced with a new topcoat, matching that on the low mobility 108 Lake trail.

Goal: Preserve the Greenbelt from invasive plants.

- Completed and ongoing.

Goal: Continue to repair and upgrade pasture fences.

- Completed and ongoing. All fences damaged as a result of the 2017 wildfire and fence realignments from the fuel management project were completed.

Goal: Access forest health treatments relative to fir bark beetle infestations.

- Completed and ongoing. It is expected that there will be an increase in forest health issues due to the stress on trees from the major wildfire event.

Goal: Remove dead and dying trees in areas where they present a danger to residents and visitors.

- Completed and ongoing. As part of a regional initiative, a danger tree assessment was completed in 2017 to do a high-level assessment for risk areas in the Greenbelt as well as identify immediate danger trees. Removal of identified danger trees will be an ongoing process.

Other Accomplishments

The Greenbelt Commission supports and facilitates a variety of organized activities. In recent years these have included the Cariboo Challenge Dog Sled Races, a community ice skating party, 10 km charity fun runs around the lake and other charity events.

A trail-use counter is set up on the 108 Lake trail and has been operational for several years. The trail use data shows an average of approximately 900 users per month throughout the year, with highs of up to 1500 per month in the warmer season.

In spring 2018, in response to a request from the six area elementary schools, the Greenbelt Commission organized a one day Walker Valley field trip for all senior students. It included a series of ecological, forest management and First Nations teaching

components, as well as an opportunity for each student to plant a number of lodgepole pine seedlings as part the healing process the teachers had indicated the students needed.

The Greenbelt Commission also actively participated in a community Fire Smart educational forum in May.