



2025 Business Plan 108 Greenbelt (1548)

building communities together

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Working in partnership with communities large and small to offer local, sub-regional, and regional services to ensure that the Cariboo Chilcotin is a socially, economically, and environmentally desirable region.

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), Bylaw No. 4450 (2009) and Bylaw No. 4870 (2014). 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. 5184 (2018) 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. Disposing or altering the greenbelt lands in such a way that they are no longer available for public recreation requires agreement from the 108 Ranch Community Association through a restriction registered on the property title.

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 conducts 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

2025 Goals

- 1. Goal:** Increase parcel tax to support Greenbelt maintenance.
Rationale: The parcel tax that is collected from property owners in the 108 Mile Ranch area to manage and maintain the 108 Greenbelt lands, trails and beaches has not increased in decades. Ongoing maintenance costs have continued to rise and to date have been supplemented by grants and timber harvesting revenues, but this approach is not sustainable in the long-term.
Strategy: This goal was included in the 2024 business plan to increase public awareness of the parcel tax and implementation is planned for 2025.
- 2. Goal:** Undertake a review of previously completed fuel management areas.
Rationale: Extensive fuel management has taken place across the greenbelt over the past 20 years to reduce the risk of potential interface wildfires. A review of areas remaining to be treated or be re-treated is worthwhile.
Strategy: Professional consulting services will be retained to conduct the review, which will be guided by the Greenbelt Commission. Funding is allocated in the function budget to procure the services necessary.
- 3. Goal:** Host an engagement meeting with 108 residents and organizations regarding future improvements to the greenbelt.
Rationale: The volunteer Greenbelt Commission guides the management, maintenance and improvement of the greenbelt lands and it is important to solicit feedback and ideas from the general public as well as key stakeholder groups, such as the 108 RCA, Lions Club, heritage society, fire department and elementary school PAC.
Strategy: Engagement will be led by the 108 Greenbelt Commission with support from Regional District staff and can be used to inform future business plan goals and budget allocations.
- 4. Goal:** Install a shade roof at Main Beach.
Rationale: Regular public use of the beach area, such as the play structures and picnic tables would be more enjoyable if shade was available for the hottest summer weather.
Strategy: Project will be led by the Greenbelt Commission and funding is appropriately allocated in the financial plan.
- 5. Goal:** Improve the water system in Block Drive horse pasture.

Rationale: The current system in the pasture for livestock is prone to freezing and ongoing maintenance issues.

Strategy: Options for improvement will be developed by the Greenbelt Commission and included in the financial plan as required.

6. **Goal:** Complete development of the playfield at West Beach.

Rationale: Improvements to this greenspace area will enable its general use for field and ball sports and provide additional recreation opportunities.

Strategy: Project will be led by the Greenbelt Commission with delivery through contracting services as required.

7. **Goal:** Consider an Adopt a Trail Program to support maintenance and improvement of greenbelt trails.

Rationale: It is important to foster community pride and ownership of public greenbelt lands and the trail program may provide an excellent opportunity to support that idea. Groups may adopt certain trails through designation signage and then assist with basic maintenance and garbage clean-up.

Strategy: The program would be coordinated and promoted through the Greenbelt Commission with funding for signage allocated in the financial plan as required.

8. **Goal:** Continue to upgrade pasture and public space fences and gates.

Rationale: 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. Major sections of fencing are 30 plus years-old and full replacement is required. A section of board fence near the West Beach playfield has been identified as priority for 2025.

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

9. **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.

10. Goal: Undertake forest health and fuel management treatments to reduce damage and improve safety.

Rationale: Fir bark beetle attacks continue to impact greenbelt forested areas. These trees increase the risk of fire as well as encourage the beetle to 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 also identifies and takes advantage of opportunities to educate the residents of the 108 and encourage them to tackle this issue if it exists on their properties.

Overall Financial Impact

The 2025 requisition is increased by \$7,325 from the 2024 requisition to \$21,975, which is an increase of about \$5 per parcel.

The 2024 requisition was the same as the 2023 requisition at \$14,650 annually.

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.

Measuring Previous Year Performance

Goal: Install a fishing dock and rebuild the boat launch at West beach.

- Partially completed. The launch was rebuilt, however the dock installation will be revisited at a later date.

Goal: Resurface the road into Main Beach.

- Completed. Reclaimed asphalt was poured and packed along the road surface.

Goal: Continue to upgrade pasture fences and gates.

- Completed with support from provincial grant funding.

Goal: Upgrade signage and maintain the extensive trail system around the lakes, including the low mobility trails established in recent years.

- Completed.

Goal: Develop a playfield at West Beach.

- Not completed. This project was deferred in favour of other priorities.

Goal: Preserve the greenbelt from invasive plants.

- Ongoing, but managing this goal with volunteers from the Commission is not sustainable.

Goal: Undertake forest health and fuel management treatments to reduce damage and improve safety.

- Completed. A wildfire risk reduction project with commercial thinning of several areas was completed.

Other Accomplishments

Extensive additional fencing was completed in 2024 due to the success of obtaining more than \$100,000 in grant funding from the Forest Worker Employment Program offered by the Ministry of Forests.