

District of Barriere

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Memorandum

Date: October 27, 2025	File: 5c
To: Council	From: Corporate Officer
Re: DRAFT Official Community Plan (OCP) Refresh	

Purpose

To provide Council with a first look at the first formal draft of the refreshed Official Community Plan prior to the November 5, 2025 Public Open House.

Background

All local governments are legislatively required to review and revise their Official Community Plans by the end of 2025 as part of Provincial Bill 44. The Province provided funding to the District in the amount of \$158,596.00 through its *Local Government Housing Legislation Requirements Fund*. This fund is aimed to assist local governments in meeting the legislated requirements to update their Housing Needs Assessments, Official Community Plans, Zoning Bylaws and other planning documents necessary to meet the legislated requirements of Bill 44.

Council contracted TRUE Consulting Ltd. to facilitate the District's OCP Refresh Project in the spring of 2024. After a number of staff and Council workshops and conducting stakeholder surveys, the first Public Open House was scheduled in November of 2024. Data collected from those sessions, surveys and open house responses have been compiled and considered in this 1st formal draft presented for review.

Next Steps

- Council can make any desired changes to this initial draft prior to presenting it to the public at the upcoming open house.
- The draft, either as-is or with Council changes, will be presented to the Public Open House on **November 5, 2025 from 6pm – 8pm at the Seniors Centre**.
- The Draft will be referred to appropriate governing bodies and organizations.
- Comments will be collected by the District's consultant.
- A final draft will be presented to Council for formal readings prior to the scheduling of a Public Hearing and subsequent adoption.
- Upon adoption, staff will report to the Province that the District has fulfilled its legislative requirements.

Attachments

- DRAFT Schedule 'A' – Official Community Plan – 1st draft

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Reviewed by:
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OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN



DRAFT

SCHEDULE A

BYLAW NO. ###

ADOPTED _____, 2025

- Bylaw Insert -



Acknowledgements

We express our heartfelt appreciation to the community members, interest groups, District Staff and District Council, who generously shared their insights and lived experiences, and who participated in various engagement events throughout the year it took to complete.

Mayor and Council

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Acronyms

ACC – Amenity Cost Charges

ALR – Agricultural Land Reserve

CPTED – Crime Prevention through Environmental Design

DCC – Development Cost Charges

FCL – Flood Construction Level

GIS – Geographic Information System

LGA – Local Government Act

MOU – Memorandum of Understanding

MOE – Ministry of Environment

MoTT- Ministry of Transportation and Transit

QP – Qualified Professional

OCP – Official Community Plan

RAR – Riparian Area Regulation

RGS – Regional Growth Strategy

SRW - Statutory Right of Way

TNRD – Thompson-Nicola Regional District

TUP – Temporary Use Permit



SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION



1.1 What is an Official Community Plan?

An Official Community Plan (OCP) is the District's primary long-range planning document. It sets out a community-driven vision for the future and provides a structured framework for managing land use, housing, transportation, infrastructure, parks and recreation, and environmental stewardship. The OCP is rooted in the values and aspirations of Barriere's residents and serves to guide decisions that shape the physical, social, and economic fabric of the community.

The Plan is intended to balance growth with sustainability, ensuring development is coordinated, resilient, and responsive to evolving local needs and global challenges. It informs how land is used, and services are delivered, promoting a healthy, connected, and vibrant community for current and future generations.

1.2 A Guide to Decision Making

The Official Community Plan serves as a guide for all who play a role in shaping Barriere's future — including residents, developers, Council, and staff. It offers guiding principles for evaluating land use proposals, infrastructure investments, and community initiatives.

Residents can use the OCP to understand the direction of community development and participate meaningfully in civic processes. Developers and landowners can consult the OCP to ensure their projects align with vision, principles and regulatory expectations. Local government decisionmakers rely on the OCP when reviewing zoning amendments, considering public investments, or responding to emerging opportunities and challenges.

Ultimately, the OCP helps ensure that Barriere grows in a thoughtful, coordinated manner — one that reflects shared values, supports economic and social resilience, and protects the natural systems that underpin long-term wellbeing.

1.3 Location and Regional Context

Often referred to as the “Gateway to the North Thompson,” the District of Barriere is located in the Lower North Thompson Valley, approximately 64 kilometres north of Kamloops along Highway 5, also known as the Yellowhead Highway. The community lies within the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD), specifically surrounded by Electoral Area ‘O’.

Nestled on the east bank of the North Thompson River at its confluence with the Barriere River, the District spans 12.44 square kilometres and sits at an elevation of 373 metres above sea level, at a latitude of 51°11'N.

Barriere is the largest urban centre within Electoral Area ‘O’ and functions as a regional hub, providing services and amenities to surrounding communities including Little Fort, Darfield, Louis Creek, McLure, and the Simpcw First Nation community of Chu Chua.

Figure. 1.3.1: Regional Context

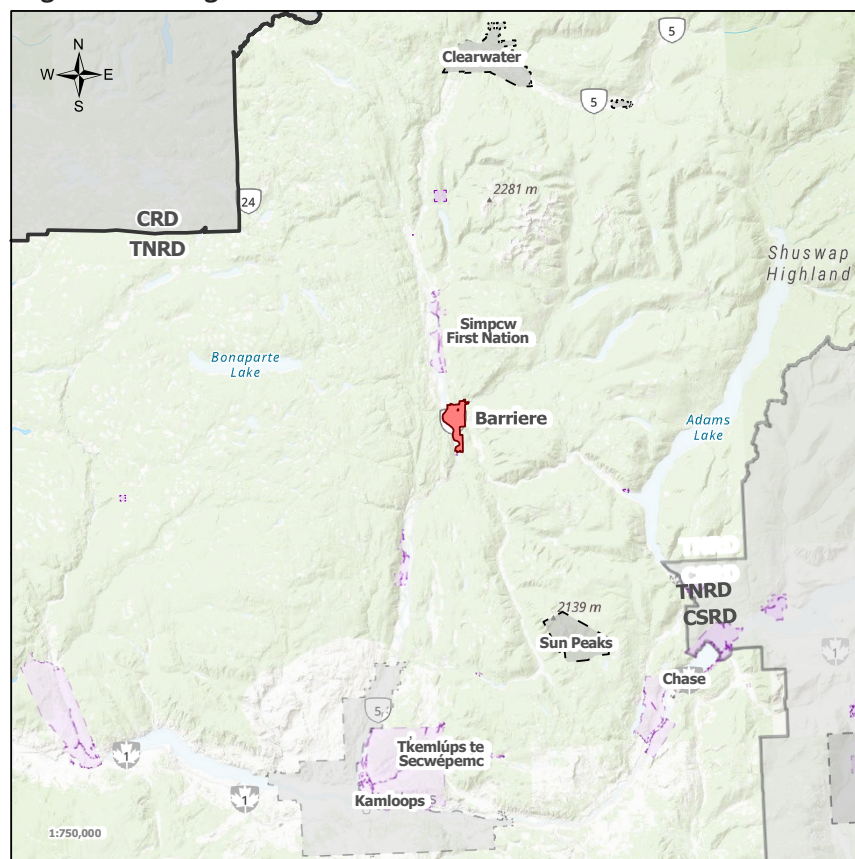
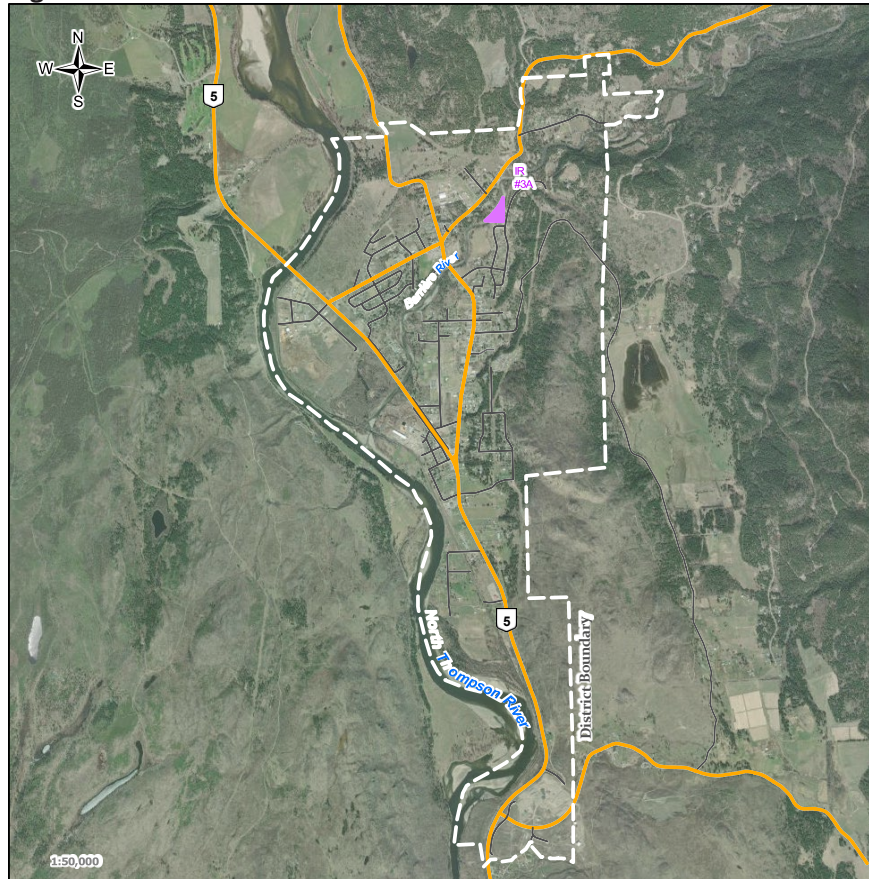


Figure. 1.3.2: Local Context



1.4 Cultural and Historical Context of Barriere

Indigenous History

The Simpcw First Nation, a division of the Secwépemc (Shuswap) people, have lived in the region encompassing the North Thompson Valley since time immemorial. Their traditional territory extends from McLure northward along the North Thompson River, reaching the headwaters of the Fraser River from McBride to Tête Jaune Cache, across to Jasper, and southward to the Athabasca River headwaters. The Simpcw speak Secwepemctsin, a language of the Salishan family, shared across the Fraser and Thompson River systems and integral to their cultural identity.

The Simpcw have always had a deep, reciprocal relationship with the land, traveling seasonally throughout the territory to harvest plants, fish, and game that sustained their communities. In winter months, families gathered in semi-subterranean dwellings in river valley villages. Archaeological evidence has confirmed traditional winter village and food storage sites throughout the region—at Finn Creek, Vavenby, Birch Island, Raft River, the Clearwater-North Thompson confluence (called *Styelltsucw* in Secwepemctsin), Chu Chua, Barriere River, Louis Creek, McLure, and Tête Jaune. These sites are tangible reminders of the enduring presence of the Simpcw in the area.

Approximately half of the Simpcw population of 628 live on reserves at Chu Chua—just north of Barriere—and Louis Creek. The Simpcw First Nation is governed by a Band Council, which oversees social, educational, and economic development, through collaborative processes with other Secwépemc communities and government bodies. The Simpcw value strong relationships with all residents of the North Thompson and Robson Valleys and are signatories to a Memorandum of Understanding and Protocol Agreement (2025) with the District of Barriere, which reflects a shared commitment to cooperation, mutual respect, and reconciliation.

The Simpcw First Nation's continued presence is central to the identity of the region, and their knowledge, language, and stewardship traditions remain vital to the future of the North Thompson Valley. They are actively working to ensure a place for future generations where traditional values and modern opportunities coexist with pride.

European Settlement History

European presence in the region began in the early 19th century with fur traders, and the area became part of a broader trade network centered on the North Thompson River. The 1850s brought increased activity as trappers and wood traders passed through, followed by prospectors heading north in search of gold in the 1860s. Permanent European settlement in Barriere began in earnest near the turn of the century.

The name “Barriere” is believed to originate from French Canadian fur traders in the late 1800s, who, upon encountering the flooded Barrière River, referred to it as “La Barrière”—a reference to the obstacle in their path. The name stuck, and by 1914 the community was officially known as Barriere. Prior to that, early settlers often simply called it “The Barriere.”

Significant development milestones followed. The Canadian National Railway (CNR) established a main line through the valley in 1914, which bolstered access and economic activity. In 1932, a road was completed connecting Kamloops to Clearwater, further linking the area. By the 1960s, construction of Highway 5 (Yellowhead Highway) was underway and completed in 1970, opening the valley to a new wave of residents and businesses.

Forestry became a central pillar of the local economy throughout the 20th century. However, in 2003, Barriere was severely impacted by a devastating wildfire that destroyed homes and infrastructure, including the Louis Creek Sawmill, a major employer. In response, the community demonstrated resilience and began diversifying its economy. Today, forestry remains important, alongside growing sectors such as tourism, agriculture, and an emerging mining industry.

In June 2007, Barriere residents voted to incorporate as a municipality. On December 4th, 2007, the District of Barriere was officially established, marking a new chapter in its civic development. Today, Barriere continues to evolve while honouring its rich Indigenous and settler histories. It is known for its natural beauty, small-town character, and spirit of collaboration with the Simpcw First Nation.



SECTION 2: VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES



2.1 Community Vision

The purpose of a vision statement in an Official Community Plan (OCP) is foundational. It serves as a guiding framework that articulates a shared, long-term aspiration for the future of the community.

In 2045, Barriere is a thriving, inclusive, and connected community at the heart of the North Thompson Valley. Its vibrant downtown, scenic parks, and pathways support healthy, active living and a resilient local economy. With diverse housing, quality healthcare, modern infrastructure, and recreational spaces for all ages, Barriere offers a high quality of life rooted in community pride. Balancing innovation with small-town charm, Barriere is a welcoming place to live, work, and play year-round.

2.2 Guiding Principles

1. Celebrating and Strengthening Small-Town Character

Barriere proudly maintains its distinct small-town charm while positioning itself as a welcoming regional destination. The community fosters a rural atmosphere that supports families, entrepreneurship, and retirement living. Through vibrant arts, cultural initiatives, and community events, Barriere continues to cultivate a sense of identity and belonging that defines its unique character.

2. Providing for Affordable and Diverse Housing

Barriere recognizes that access to safe, affordable, and appropriate housing is essential to the health, resilience, and inclusivity of the community. As housing needs continue to evolve—driven by demographic shifts, economic pressures, and changing household structures—the district is

committed to supporting a variety of housing forms, tenures, and price points.

3. Cultivating a Vibrant and Inclusive Downtown

Barriere's downtown serves as the civic and commercial heart of the community—a place that is lively, attractive, and accessible to all. Thoughtfully scaled development, cohesive streetscape design, and active public spaces create a dynamic and inclusive corridor that supports business, social interaction, and cultural expression.

4. Investing in Sustainable Infrastructure

Reliable, efficient, and well-maintained infrastructure—such as roads, water systems, and wastewater services—is fundamental to Barriere's livability. The District remains committed to ensuring long-term value and service excellence through thoughtful investment, innovation, and sustainable asset management. Investments into current assets will be prioritized.

5. Advancing Economic Development and Diversification

Barriere is home to a resilient and evolving local economy supported by a mix of small businesses, tourism, and industrial activity. The community actively encourages innovation and entrepreneurship, while highway-adjacent lands provide strategic opportunities for service-based enterprises and investment. Diversification remains central to long-term economic sustainability.

6. Fostering Beauty, Quality, and Cultural Collaboration

Barriere is a visually appealing and culturally rich community, set within a picturesque valley and surrounded by natural beauty. Clean streets, well-designed buildings, and attention to aesthetics enhance community pride. A strong, respectful partnership with the Simpcw First Nation contributes to shared stewardship, cultural exchange, and mutual prosperity.

7. Enhancing Mobility and Connectivity

Barriere prioritizes active and sustainable transportation. A connected network of safe, multi-use pathways supports walking, cycling, and other forms of non-motorized movement throughout the community. Regional transit options ensure accessibility to Kamloops and surrounding areas, strengthening connections beyond the community while reducing vehicle dependency.

8. Promoting Active and Healthy Lifestyles

Barriere offers year-round opportunities for active living, from serene nature trails to well-equipped parks and recreational facilities. Residents of all ages and abilities enjoy easy access to outdoor and indoor activities that support well-being, lifelong fitness, and a strong connection to the natural environment. Life here moves at a thoughtful pace—balanced, engaging, and fulfilling.

9. Supporting Health and Social Well-Being

A strong network of health and social services ensures that residents—whether young families, individuals, or seniors—are well supported throughout all stages of life. Accessible, reliable services contribute to a healthy, inclusive, and socially connected community.

10. Leading with Environmental Stewardship

Barriere is committed to sustainable development and environmental leadership. The community embraces green practices that promote clean air, water conservation, biodiversity, and low-impact living. Residents, businesses, and local government work together to reduce environmental footprints and preserve the region's ecological health for future generations.

11. Ensuring Community Safety and Environmental Resilience

Barriere is a safe, secure, and prepared community. Residents feel prepared for natural hazards, and environmental degradation. The protection of local ecosystems is valued to ensure health, resilience, and enjoyment for current and future generations.



SECTION 3:

FUTURE

GROWTH



3.1 Population Overview

Barriere has demonstrated modest population growth in recent years, even amidst the broader economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and periods of higher-than-average inflation. Historical data since the District’s incorporation in 2007 reveal a population trend characterized by fluctuations rather than consistent growth.

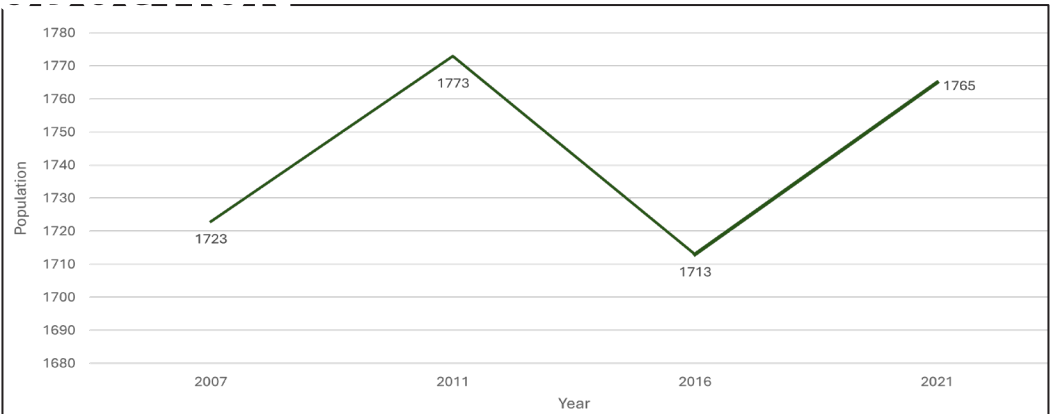
Between 2007 and 2011, the District experienced a population increase of 2.9%. This was followed by a notable decline of 3.9% between 2011 and 2016. While no major external events directly contributed to this decrease, the trend may reflect the broader demographic shifts experienced across rural British Columbia during that period. A modest rebound followed between 2016 and 2021, with the population increasing by 3.0%. In comparison, the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) saw population increases of 3.3% (2011–2016) and 8.4% (2016–2021) over the same periods.

Table 3.1.1: Population growth (2007-2021)

Census Year	Population	5-Year Growth
2007*	1723	n/a
2011	1773	2.9%
2016	1713	-3.4%
2021	1765	3.0%

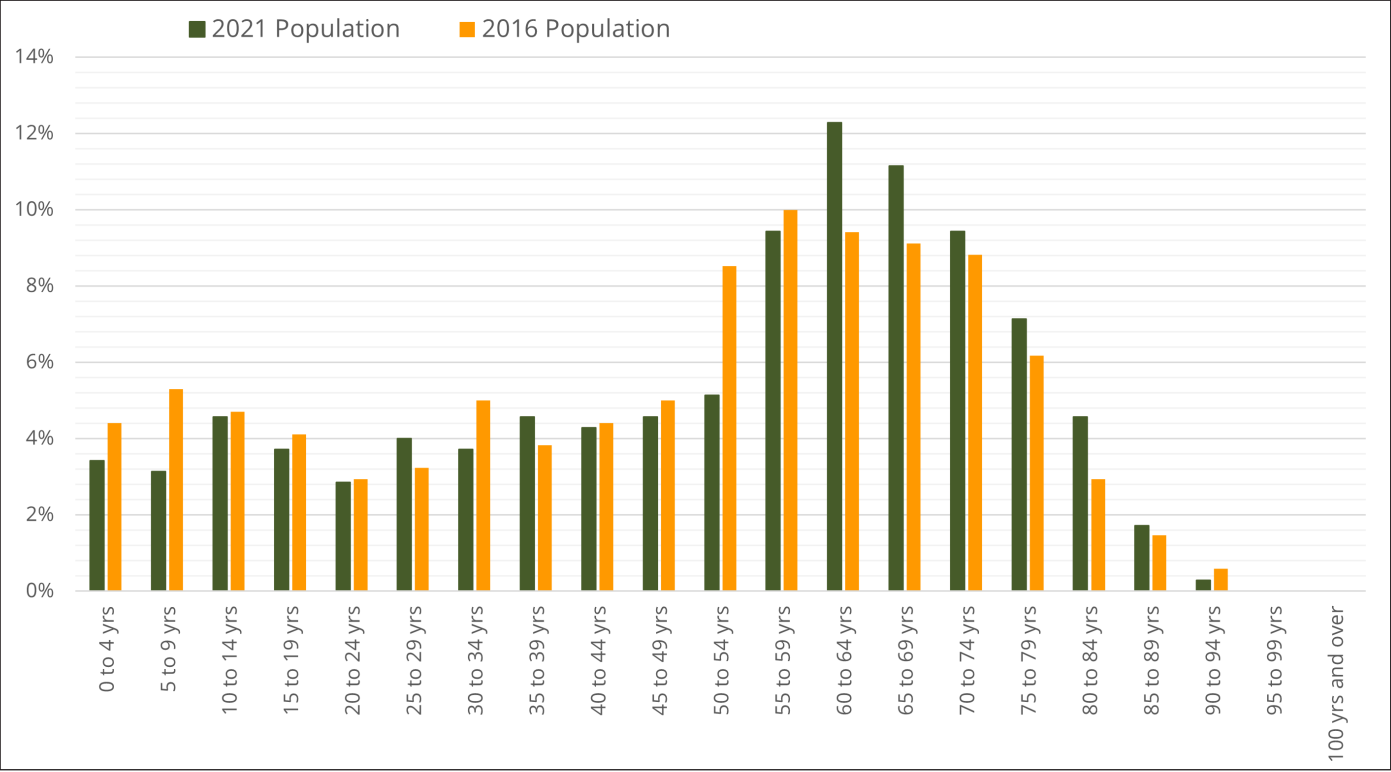
Figure. 3.1: Historic population change 2007 - 2021

**Note: 2007 population certified by the Province at time of incorporation (December 4, 2007)*



The District's age profile reflects a pattern common to many rural communities across the province—an aging population. In 2021, the median age in Barriere was 58, up from 53 in 2016. This is significantly higher than the median ages of 45 in the TNRD and 43 in British Columbia overall. Notably, the youngest age group (0–9 years) declined from 165 children in 2016 to 115 in 2021, indicating a shrinking base of young families.

Figure.3.1.2: Age distribution 2021 vs 2016



In terms of employment, the community is supported by a workforce concentrated on trade, transport, equipment operation, and sales and service roles—together comprising approximately 50% of all employment. The remaining half is distributed across a variety of other sectors, including education, healthcare, resource industries, and administrative services.

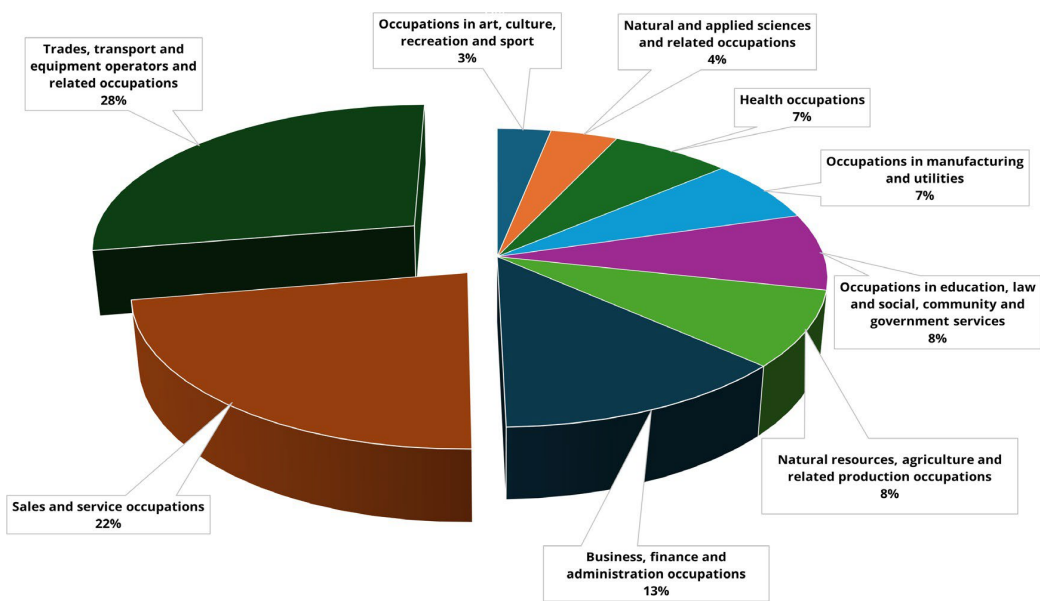


Figure. 3.1.3: Employment spectrum pie chart

3.2 Population Growth

Since incorporation in 2007, the District of Barriere has experienced modest population growth, averaging approximately 0.22% per year. Some periods—such as 2011 to 2016—saw a slight population decline; however, more recent trends suggest the District may be entering a period of renewed growth.

This anticipated increase is influenced in part by migration from the Lower Mainland and other regions of British Columbia and Canada, as residents seek more affordable and community-oriented alternatives to high-cost urban areas.

Table 3.2.1 Growth Projections 2021-2041

Year	Historical Population	Annual Growth Rate		
		0.50%	0.75%	1.00%
2021	1,765	1,765	1,765	1,765
2026		1,809	1,831	1,853
2031		1,854	1,900	1,946
2036		1,901	1,971	2,043
2041		1,948	2,045	2,145
2046		1,997	2,122	2,253

Looking ahead, annual growth rates between 0.5% and 1.0% are considered achievable and are reflected in Table 3.2.1. Based on this range, Barriere’s population could reach between 1,997 and 2,253 by 2046—an overall increase of approximately 13% to 28% over 25 years.

By comparison, the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) anticipates regional population growth of roughly 30% between 2021 and 2041. While Barriere’s growth potential is somewhat constrained by factors such as flood-hazard areas, Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) designations, and steep terrain, future development can be accommodated through a strategic mix of infill and greenfield opportunities.

Further potential exists to increase residential density through sewer system extensions and interconnections. These investments would enable additional infill development and could support small-scale multi-unit housing, such as three or more dwellings per lot, within serviced areas.

3.3 Education

Education plays a vital role in the District of Barriere, contributing to the community's strength, cohesion, and long-term well-being. The town is served by School District No. 73 (Kamloops-Thompson), which supports schools across Kamloops and the North and South Thompson regions. The district's guiding vision, *"Working together for quality public education,"* is evident in Barriere's two local schools that serve students from Kindergarten through Grade 12.

Barriere Elementary School and Barriere Secondary School form the core of local public education, with the elementary school feeding directly into the secondary school. These schools offer a full range of provincial curriculum and provide supportive learning environments grounded in community engagement. While enrollment numbers may shift year to year, these schools continue to play a key role in community life and student development. As of 2024, School District No. 73 continues to prioritize inclusive learning environments and supports for rural and Indigenous learners.

Table 3.3.1 Projected School Enrolment (as of January 2025)

Projected School Enrolment (as of January 2025)													
		2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	Ministry Operating Capacity
Barriere Elementary	K-7	210	202	197	192	182	181	184	194	195	203	207	271
Barriere Secondary	8-12	221	212	206	196	201	190	204	201	205	199	187	325

Source: School District 73 Long-Range Facilities Plan / February 2025

Table 3.3.2 School Capacity and Utilization Rates (as of January 2025)

School Capacity and Utilization Rates (as of January 2025)													
Barriere Elementary	K-7	77%	75%	73%	71%	67%	67%	68%	72%	72%	75%	76%	271
Barriere Secondary	8-12	68%	65%	63%	60%	62%	58%	63%	62%	63%	61%	58%	325

Source: School District 73 Long-Range Facilities Plan / February 2025

Early learning is also supported through the StrongStart BC program located at Barriere Elementary, offering a free, drop-in early learning initiative for children aged 0 to 5. StrongStart programs provide high-quality learning environments where children engage in meaningful play and early literacy activities. The program also supports parents and caregivers in building confidence and capacity in early childhood development. And after-school care program is also in place through the North Thompson Activity Centre Society (NTACS).

Post-secondary access is supported through a combination of local, regional, and online offerings. Thompson Rivers University (TRU), headquartered in Kamloops, is a key provider of higher education for Barriere residents. TRU offers over 140 on-campus and 60 online programs, including trades, undergraduate degrees, graduate programs, adult basic education, and vocational training. TRU's Barriere Community Education Centre plays a localized role in making education accessible to rural residents by offering various courses and programs to help individuals prepare for the job market and further their educational pursuits.

Early Childhood Development

The District of Barriere is served by Yellowhead Community Services Society (YCS), a non-profit registered charity delivering integrated supports and services to individuals of all ages through different community locations. With offices and program centres in both Barriere and Clearwater, YCS has been instrumental in supporting families since its founding in 1989. Today, it stands as the largest registered charity in the North Thompson Valley, with a mandate to improve community well-being from McLure to Blue River.

YCS delivers a range of programs, including:

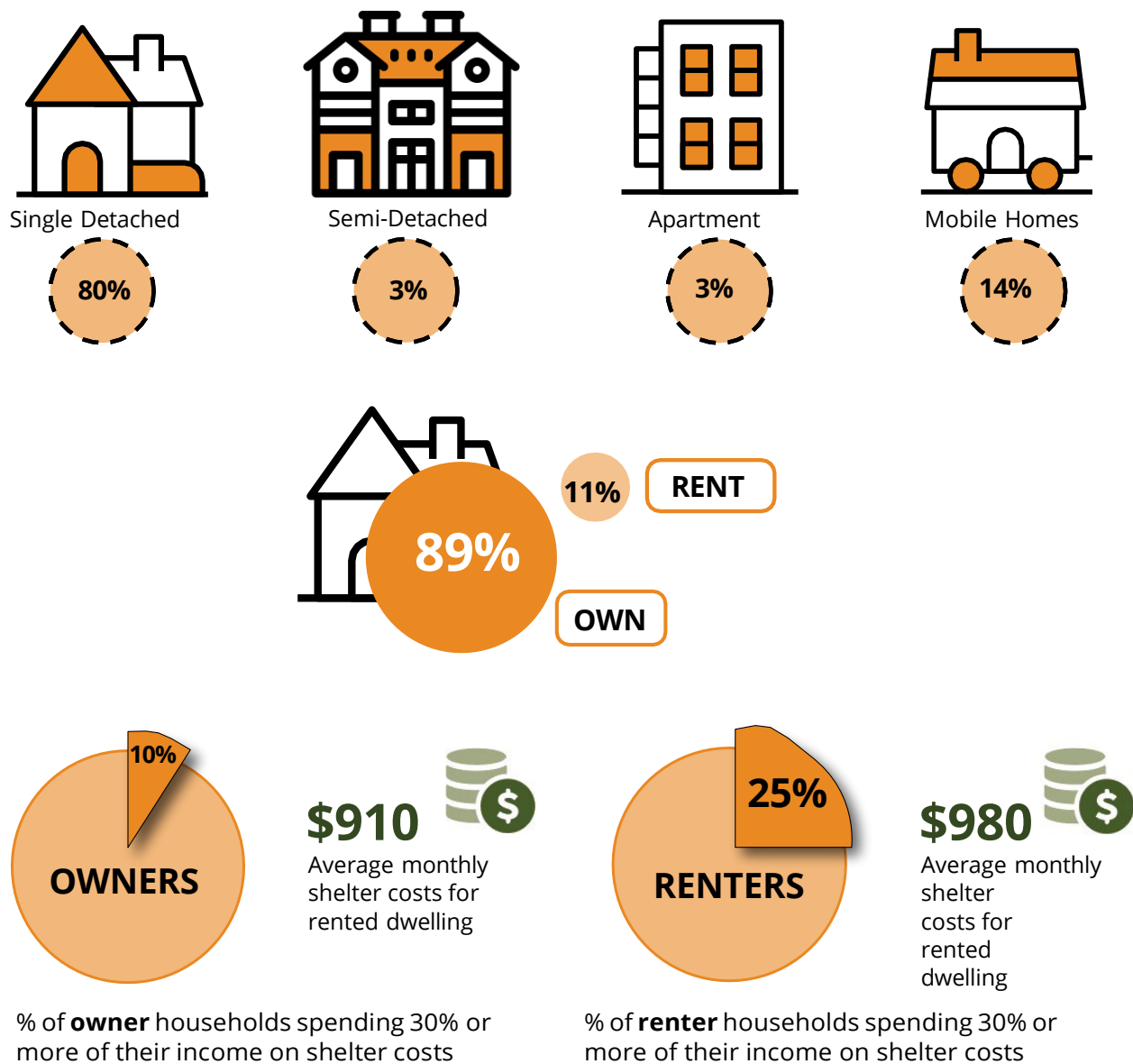
- Licensed childcare
- Support services for families and children
- Youth activities
- Food security programs
- Services for adults with developmental disabilities
- Services for women and children fleeing domestic violence

These programs are rooted in evidence-based practices and designed to meet the diverse needs of rural families.

3.4 Future Housing Needs

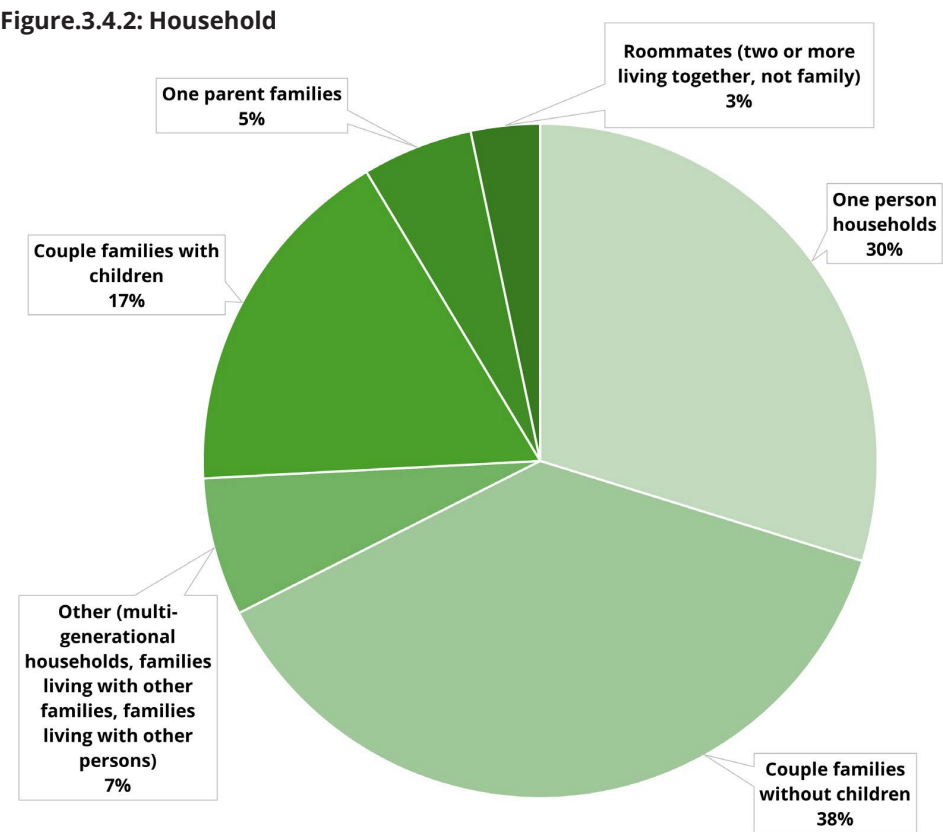
Housing is a fundamental human need and a key guiding principle of this Official Community Plan. A complete and inclusive community requires a broad range of housing options to meet the needs of people of all ages, incomes, and life circumstances. While housing can take many forms -- ranging from single-detached homes to townhouses, apartments, and supportive living -- Barriere’s housing stock has historically been limited in diversity. The predominance of larger, single-family homes has created a gap in the availability of smaller, more affordable, and more flexible housing options.

Figure.3.4.1: Housing Needs Infographics



5-year	20-year
175 new dwelling units	448 new dwelling units

The recent Housing Needs Assessment provides a detailed analysis of current and projected housing requirements within the District. In response, this OCP introduces policies that support a greater mix of housing types, tenures, and densities. These measures aim to ensure that Barriere can accommodate a wide range of households, foster long-term community stability, and adapt to changing demographics and economic conditions.



The community welcomes responsible increases in residential density, particularly in areas where infrastructure, amenities, and services can support growth. Infill housing, secondary suites, townhomes, and mixed-use developments are among the tools that can help broaden housing options while maintaining the small-town character and livability that residents value.

Housing diversity must reflect the full lifecycle of Barriere’s population. This includes starter homes and rentals for young adults, adaptable and accessible housing for seniors wishing to age in place, and family-oriented homes near schools, parks, and services. Innovative solutions such as co-housing, modular units, and supportive housing may also play a role in meeting emerging needs.

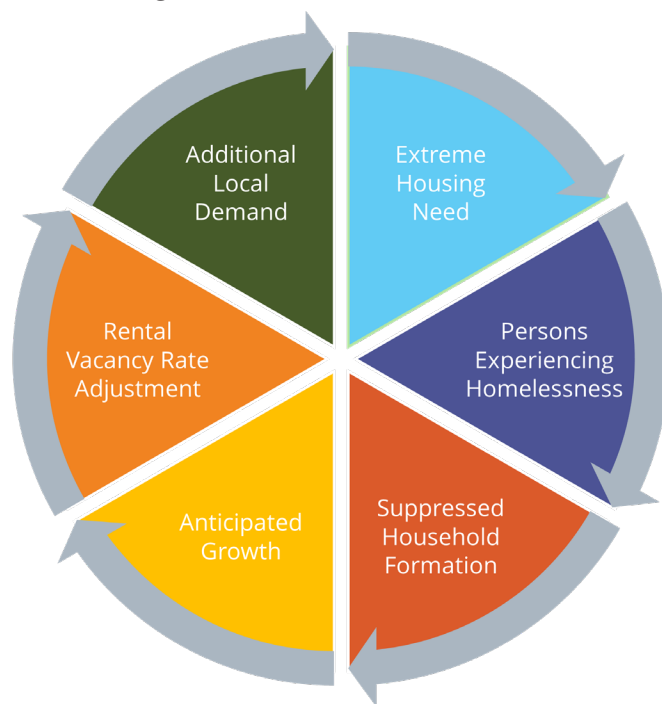
Affordability is a shared responsibility. The District will collaborate with provincial agencies, non-profit organizations, private developers, and the Simpcw First Nation to leverage funding opportunities, streamline approvals, and remove policy barriers to affordable housing development. The goal is a balanced housing system—where individuals and families at all income levels can find a place to call home in Barriere.

By planning for inclusiveness, choice, and affordability, Barriere will remain a community where people can put down roots, thrive through all stages of life, and contribute to a vibrant and sustainable future.

Housing Needs Assessment

The District of Barriere partnered with the TNRD and many of its member municipalities to complete a Barriere-specific **Housing Needs Assessment** in 2024 to meet the requirements of the Provincial Housing Needs Report Regulation (2024). All local governments must complete 'regular' housing needs reports in 2028 and every 5 years thereafter. The assessment draws on various data sources, including BC Stats, Statistics Canada and CMHC. The methodology considers six key components to determine housing needs: units to reduce extreme core housing need and homelessness, units to address suppressed household formation, units needed to meet projected population growth, units required to achieve a 3% rental vacancy rate, and units needed to meet local demand via a provincial 'demand factor'. This multi-faceted approach aims to account for both social variables and variables reflecting market demand.

Figure.3.4.3: Housing Needs Wheel



Based on this methodology, the report projects a total need for **175 new housing units over 5 years (2021-2026)** and **448 new units over 20 years (2021-2041)**. The largest component driving this assessed demand is anticipated population growth, projected to require approximately 260 units over 20 years. The provincial 'demand factor', intended to reflect additional local market demand, contributes approximately 112 units to the 20-year total. It's important to note that the quantitative outputs of this methodology indicate the calculated need based on the provincial formula and do not imply that this housing can be built under current construction costs, prices, or rents, as the methodology does not directly incorporate economic viability.

Table 3.4.1: Anticipated Units Required: 5-year and 20-year need. Urbanics Consultants, 2024.

Component	5 Year Need	20 Year Need
A. Extreme Core Housing Need	7	27
B. Persons Experiencing Homelessness	7	14
C. Suppressed Household Formation	8	34
D. Anticipated Growth	125	260
E. Rental Vacancy Rate Adjustment	0	1
F. Additional Local Demand	28	112
Total new units - 5 years	175	
Total new units - 20 years		448

Beyond the quantitative projections, the report highlights key areas where the existing housing supply does not adequately meet the community's needs and demand. Through community engagement, concerns were raised about the **limited availability** and **increasing cost** of both ownership and rental housing, particularly affordable and suitable rental options. There is an identified need to expand the supply of non-market and supportive housing, including options for low-income individuals, families, and seniors, given that Barriere currently has only one non-market unit. Furthermore, the aging population creates a demand for specific types of housing, such as smaller units for downsizing, accessible housing with features like barrier-free design, and potentially more supportive or assisted living options, which may not be adequately met by the current supply, which is predominantly single-detached homes and larger units.

Housing Availability & Affordability

In terms of housing availability, a significant finding with the Housing Needs Assessment is the lack of available and affordable rental units, identified as one of the most pressing concerns in the District. Community survey respondents noted facing difficulties accessing rental housing, and housing costs. The assessment suggests that a lack of available rental stock tends to push upward pressure on rents and can contribute to young people moving away. Furthermore, there is an identified need for an expanded supply of non-market and supportive housing options, increase in supply of rental housing, and address the specific requirements of the community's aging population. The report notes that Barriere currently has only one non-market housing unit under BC Housing Administration.

Regarding housing types, the existing supply is predominantly single-detached homes (80%). A large majority of housing units (93%) are units with two or more bedrooms, potentially suitable for families. However, 1-bedroom units make up only 7% of occupied dwellings, and no studio units were recorded in the 2021 census. This lack of smaller units can pose challenges for households who might need or prefer them due to affordability or maintenance needs, such as seniors and low-income individuals.



Regarding housing affordability, the report highlights increasing unaffordability and rising housing costs as major challenges in Barriere, as is common in many communities in the Regional District. Community and stakeholder engagement reinforced concerns that rising housing costs are out of reach for many in the community. The median total household income in Barriere (\$66,500 as of 2020) is notably lower than the provincial median (\$85,000). Specific groups like 1-person households and lone-parent families have median incomes well below provincial comparisons for those types. According to 2021 census data, 9% of households spend 30% or more of their before-tax income on housing, though the assessment notes this figure was likely affected by pandemic income supports like CERB in May 2021. Community survey responses showed a higher proportion, with 19% of Barriere respondents stating they paid more than 30%. Additionally, 14.3% of Barriere households were identified as being in Core Housing Need in 2021, meaning their housing falls below adequacy, affordability, or suitability standards and they would need to spend 30% or more of their income for appropriate alternative housing.

Extreme Core Housing Need (spending 50% or more of income on housing in addition to suitability/adequacy issues) affected 3% of households. The housing needs assessment provides concrete examples of rising costs, noting that the average house value increased by 24% between 2022 (\$404,000) and 2023 (\$502,000). Average renter shelter costs (rent and utilities) in Barriere also increased by 27% between 2011 and 2021, from \$771 to \$980 per month. The cost of construction was also identified as a pressing housing issue through community engagement during preparation of the assessment.

In summary, the report suggests that Barriere faces a critical need for more housing, particularly rental units and non-market/supportive options. The existing supply is heavily skewed towards larger, single-detached homes, lacking diversity in unit size which impacts affordability and suitability for certain demographics. Simultaneously, rising housing costs, reflected in increasing home values and rents, coupled with lower median incomes compared to regional and provincial averages, contribute to ongoing affordability challenges, even as some core housing need metrics showed improvement between 2011 and 2021 (potentially influenced by unique pandemic conditions).



3.4.1 Policies to Address Barriere's Housing Needs

To ensure that Barriere can accommodate a wide range of current and future housing needs, the District endeavours to pursue a coordinated set of policy directions across the housing continuum. These policies are intended to improve affordability, expand housing diversity, and enhance accessibility for all residents.

a. **Support the Development of Non-Market and Supportive Housing**

- i. Where appropriate, make municipally-owned land available for affordable and supportive housing projects.
- ii. Explore opportunities to reduce municipal property taxes or fees for qualifying developments.
- iii. Partner with senior levels of government and non-profit housing providers to facilitate the creation of supportive and subsidized housing.

b. **Expand and Diversify Rental Housing Options**

- i. Promote the development of a range of rental housing forms, including both market and non-market options.
- ii. Encourage purpose-built rental buildings, secondary suites, carriage homes, garden suites, and modular housing.
- iii. Support flexible zoning and incentives to stimulate new rental construction.
- iv. Investing in water and wastewater infrastructure to support densification.

c. **Respond to the Needs of an Aging Population**

- i. Encourage the development of low-maintenance housing types such as apartments, condominiums, and secondary suites.

- ii. Promote the integration of universal design and accessibility features in all new residential development.
- iii. Prioritize senior-friendly housing within walkable proximity to downtown shops, services, and community amenities.
- iv. Expansion of supportive housing options, specifically including assisted living for seniors.

d. Streamline Development Approval Processes

- i. Review and simplify planning and permitting processes to reduce delays and costs for residential construction.
- ii. Implement fast-track approvals or pre-zoning for targeted housing forms.
- iii. Provide clear, user-friendly guidance for applicants and developers.

e. Enable a Broader Range of Housing Forms and Densities

- i. Support adequately serviced smaller lot sizes and flexible subdivision regulations to enable compact housing forms.
- ii. Expand wastewater infrastructure to support infill development in established neighbourhoods, especially near amenities.
- iii. Plan for the development of vacant greenfield sites in a manner consistent with infrastructure capacity and environmental considerations.
- iv. Promote mixed-use buildings that include residential units within the Downtown Core Development Permit Area.
- v. Support the redevelopment or replacement of underutilized residential properties into higher-density forms such as multi-unit dwellings.

3.5 Economic Growth

Barriere's economic landscape is a blend of established industries, like agriculture, forestry and the service sector, alongside emerging sectors such as tourism and mining. As these industries continue to evolve, the community remains adaptable and committed to balancing growth with sustainability. Below is an overview of these key sectors:

Service Sector

Barriere's service sector is well-established and plays a vital role in supporting both residents and visitors. The community offers a broad range of essential services, including grocery store, financial institutions, post office, pharmacy, legal, and accounting services, and insurance providers. These core amenities are complemented by places of worship, a funeral home, restaurants, motels, and fuel stations, all of which contribute to the everyday convenience, vibrancy, and social fabric of the town.

Tourism

Situated at the gateway to over 60 nearby lakes—including the scenic North, South, and East Barriere Lakes located 23 to 40 kilometres east—Barriere has become an increasingly popular destination for outdoor recreation. The area's natural beauty attracts visitors seeking opportunities for fishing, hiking, boating, and other nature-based activities. A visitor centre is operated by the Barriere & Area Chamber of Commerce and serves as both a visitor centre and community business hub.

A growing number of tourism-focused businesses offer accommodation, guided tours, and equipment rentals, contributing to a robust summer tourism season. One notable attraction is the North Thompson Museum & Archives operated by the Barriere & District Heritage Society (BDHS). While tourism is not currently classified as a standalone industry in statistical reporting, recent trends—particularly in the post-COVID-19 recovery period—indicate increasing visitor activity and economic potential in this sector.

Forestry

Forestry has long been a foundational industry in Barriere, historically employing a significant portion of the local workforce. Gilbert Smith Forest Products continues to serve as a major employer, anchoring the local forestry economy. The sector experienced a significant disruption in 2003 when a wildfire destroyed the Tolko Industries Louis Creek Sawmill, impacting employment and local economic stability. Nonetheless, forestry remains vital to the region, with continued contributions from companies like Woodco Industries, Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society (LNTCFS), and Simpcw Resources Group. The associated trucking and transport sector also plays an essential role in moving raw timber and processed materials to regional and provincial markets.

Agriculture

Agriculture continues to be a key pillar of the local economy, with over 500 agricultural operators active in the Barriere area. Alfalfa remains the dominant crop, supporting both livestock and diversified agricultural operations across the region. Community efforts are increasingly focused on strengthening local food systems, encouraging the consumption of locally grown products, and advancing sustainable farming practices. These initiatives not only support economic development but also reinforce the community's connection to the land.

Mining

Barriere is located just south of the Yellowhead Copper (Harper Creek) project, one of the world's largest undeveloped copper deposits. As this project advances, it positions Barriere as a potential hub for mining-related activity in the North Thompson region. Increased mining operations are expected to bring new employment opportunities and associated industries, contributing to economic diversification and long-term growth. The involvement of Taseko Mines underscores the scale and strategic importance of this emerging sector.

3.6 Regional Context Statement

In accordance with Sections 446 of the *Local Government Act*, an *Official Community Plan* must include a Regional Context Statement (RCS) where a Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) applies to the same area as the OCP. The District of Barriere is within the jurisdictional boundary of the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) and its *Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 2409, 2013* as adopted on May 9, 2013, as amended or replaced from time to time. The strategy presents a long-term strategic framework to guide sustainable growth, foster economic and social balance, and promote regional cohesion. Rather than prescribing specific land uses, the RGS articulates broad objectives and identifies growth management priorities that inform land use planning and interjurisdictional decision-making.

The Regional Context Statement within this OCP demonstrates the alignment of the District's land use policies, planning principles, and community development objectives with the overarching vision and strategic priorities of the TNRD Regional Growth Strategy. The District affirms the importance of a collaborative and integrated approach to growth management, undertaken in partnership with the TNRD and Indigenous communities, including the Simpcw First Nation. This Plan fosters a framework for strengthened cooperation, grounded in principles of recognition, reconciliation, mutual respect, and shared stewardship.

The TNRD Regional Growth Strategy outlines ten key goals to help guide growth in a way that respects the region's diverse communities and landscapes. Urban areas are expected to grow while maintaining their character. Rural communities will remain rural, with new developments that fit their setting. Development in resource and wilderness areas will be limited and carefully managed to protect their natural value.

Goals

1. Promote and encourage local and regional economic development
2. Protect and enhance the natural environment
3. Protect and maintain access to the resource base
4. Preserve the rural and wilderness character of the region
5. Protect farmland and encourage farming

6. Protect farmland and encourage farming
7. Ensure adequate and appropriate services are provided
8. Maintain mobility throughout the region
9. Ensure adequate range of housing opportunities are available
10. Promote regional collaboration on common issues
11. Cooperate with First Nations in planning and servicing matters

As required under Sections 446 and 447 of the *Local Government Act*, TNRD member municipalities collectively support the RGS by preparing regional context statements identifying the relationship between the OCP and RGS. The following table demonstrates how the OCP aligns with and achieves the objectives of the RGS.

Table 3.6.1 Regional Context Statement

RGS Policy Area	District of Barriere OCP Policy Alignment	Reference
GOAL #1	Barriere supports compact development through policies that promote mixed-use projects and increased densities within existing serviced areas, focusing growth near key amenities and infrastructure.	Policies 4.1.1, 4.1.3, 4.3.4, and 4.3.7
Human Settlement		
GOAL #2	Align energy and transportation planning with land use and settlement patterns to support conservation, enhance mobility, and improve overall efficiency.	Policies 5.1.1, 5.2.1, 5.2.3, 5.3.3, 6.1.3, and 6.2.1
Energy and Transportation		
GOAL #3	Barriere encourages economic diversification by promoting value-added local manufacturing (e.g., food and wood products), expanding telecommunications, supporting tech-based home businesses, and fostering research, lifelong learning, and pilot projects.	Policies 4.4.1, 4.4.2, 4.4.3, and 4.4.4
Economic Development		
GOAL #4	Promote environmental protection and enhancement through the collaborative application of stewardship principles	Policies 6.1.1, 6.1.2, 6.1.3, 6.1.4, 6.1.5, and 6.1.6
Environmental Protection		
GOAL #5	Preserve the Thompson-Nicola region's archaeological and heritage resources, maintain its open spaces, and safeguard its rural character.	Policies 5.4.1, 5.4.2, and 5.6.1
Open Space & Cultural Heritage		
GOAL #6	Barriere fosters collaboration by supporting partnerships with community groups, businesses, and all levels of government to ensure integrated and effective long-term planning.	Policies 5.3.4, 5.4.1, 5.6.1, and 6.2.1
Co-operation and Process		



SECTION 4: LAND USE POLICIES



4.1 Growth Management

The Official Community Plan (OCP) for Barriere establishes a framework for sustainable land use, guiding future growth with policies that reflect community values and long-term aspirations. Developed through an inclusive planning process, the OCP sets the following key objectives:

4.1.1 Support Compact, Mixed-Use Growth

- a. Promote higher-density, mixed-use development within established or designated development nodes.
- b. Pre-zone areas to enable complete, walkable neighbourhoods.
- c. Require Neighbourhood Plans for developments exceeding 4 hectares, detailing transportation, servicing, land use, density, parks, trail connectivity, and environmental considerations.
- d. Direct new development near existing amenities and services to enhance livability and infrastructure efficiency.

4.1.2 Revitalize the Downtown Core

- a. Enhance downtown as a vibrant hub through:
 - i. Retrofitting existing buildings where feasible.
 - ii. Incorporating local art and cultural expression.
 - iii. Creating public gathering spaces for social interaction and celebration.
 - iv. Implementing a shared parking strategy that considers both on- and off-street solutions.

4.1.3 Guide Commercial and Industrial Development

- a. Recognize and support existing and future commercial and industrial uses.
- b. Encourage mixed-use zoning and comprehensive development areas for land use flexibility.

4.1.4 Protect Agricultural Lands and Promote Local Food Systems

- a. Buffer urban development adjacent to the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) using ALC's "Landscaped Buffer Specifications" and consider public greenways as transition zones.
- b. Support local food production, agri-business innovation, and youth engagement in agriculture.
- c. Highlight agriculture's role in a resilient local economy.

4.1.5 Encourage Sustainable and Resilient Housing

- a. Enable diverse housing options through flexible zoning and development incentives.
- b. Consider reducing Development Cost Charges (DCCs) for small-lot subdivisions that prioritize sustainability.
- c. Promote energy-efficient, net-zero buildings and support retrofitting for existing homes.
- d. When feasible, develop a sustainability checklist to guide new construction and renovations.

4.1.6 Expand Community Infrastructure Responsibly

- a. Secure parkland through the statutory 5% land dedication or cash-in-lieu for all applicable subdivisions.
- b. Support expansion of municipal wastewater infrastructure.
- c. Encourage innovative infrastructure designs (e.g., narrow roads, French drains, multi-use pathways).
- d. Support integration of renewable energy and water reuse systems in new developments.
- e. Regulate new private well drilling where municipal water service is available to protect groundwater aquifer.

4.2 Land Use Designations

RESIDENTIAL (RES)

Support a broad mix of housing types, densities, and tenures to meet the needs of all ages, household types, and income levels. Complementary uses—such as small-scale commercial, institutional, or recreational facilities—may be considered through neighbourhood planning or site-specific zoning amendments, provided they are compatible with the residential context

COMMERCIAL (COM)

Promote the development of vibrant commercial centres that provide essential services, retail options, and employment opportunities for residents and visitors. Commercial areas should enhance walkability, support local entrepreneurship, and contribute to the community's economic resilience and livability.

INDUSTRIAL (IND)

Ensure an adequate and appropriately located supply of industrial land to accommodate a range of uses, including manufacturing, warehousing, logistics, and innovation-based enterprises. Industrial areas support local employment and are vital to Barriere's economic development and supply chain infrastructure. Limit use allowances of new vehicle and wrecking through site specific zoning process.

PARK (P-1)

Where feasible, protect and designate land for public parks, open space, and environmental conservation. These areas support physical and mental health, biodiversity, and climate adaptation, and provide opportunities for recreation, community gathering, and ecosystem protection.

INSTITUTIONAL & RECREATION (P-2)

Consider lands for essential community services and facilities, including schools, places of worship community halls, gyms, arenas, and other public amenities that promote education, wellness, culture, and social connection.

RURAL RESOURCE (RR)

Where practical, preserve and support land for rural and resource-based activities, such as agriculture, forestry, aggregate extraction, and renewable energy production. These lands contribute to long-term food security, natural resource management, and the rural economy. Land within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) are included in this designation.

- Residential subdivisions may be considered in Rural Resource areas where:
- The land is demonstrated to be unsuitable for resource-related activities.

- Development has limited conflict with existing or potential adjacent resource uses.
- Appropriate water supply and sewage disposal systems are available or are being made available.
- The proposal is confirmed to be environmentally safe by the appropriate provincial authority where required.

AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE (ALR)

Where practical, recognize and uphold the purpose of the Agricultural Land Reserve by protecting lands for agricultural use and compatible rural resource activities. These lands are essential to the region's food production, agricultural viability, and long-term land stewardship.

SAND/GRAVEL (SG)

Identify and conserve known sand and gravel deposits for future use. Extraction and processing should occur on lands designated Rural Resource, Agricultural, or Industrial, and must follow best practices for environmental protection, noise mitigation, and dust control.

While the District does not regulate extraction activities directly, it encourages coordination with the responsible provincial agencies to ensure that sand and gravel operations are compatible with surrounding land uses. Deposits are shown on the Land Use Map for reference and long-term planning.

4.3 General Land Use Policies

Residential Development

Barriere is a vibrant, welcoming, and affordable community where residents enjoy a unique blend of rural charm and urban convenience. A diverse and adaptable housing stock is fundamental to supporting a healthy, inclusive, and resilient community. The OCP plays a central role in guiding the development of housing that meets the evolving needs of residents across all age groups and life stages—both today and into the future.

4.3.1 Plan for an Aging Population through Seniors Housing

- a. Prioritize seniors housing development to meet the growing demand driven by demographic shifts.
- b. Partner with senior governments, non-profits, and private sector stakeholders to develop a purpose-built seniors housing complex in Barriere.

4.3.2 Foster Housing Diversity and Mixed-Use Neighbourhoods

- a. Promote a range of housing types and densities to accommodate current and future residents, including young families, individuals, and seniors.
 - i. Encourage compact, mixed-use development to foster complete communities.
 - ii. Support the implementation of a mixed-use zoning framework that allows for integrated commercial and residential uses.

4.3.3 Expand Affordable and Rental Housing Options

- a. Support the development of rental and multi-family housing through targeted density incentives and wastewater infrastructure expansion.
- b. Explore partnerships and density bonusing opportunities on municipal and Crown land to catalyze apartment and multi-family housing development.
- c. Encourage multi-family and affordable housing proposals to include a mix of unit sizes and layouts to meet diverse household needs, including those of families, individuals, persons with disabilities, and seniors.

4.3.4 Promote Sustainable Residential Development to Reduce GHG Emissions

- a. Support residential development that contributes to a connected community through the dedication and construction of trail corridors along the Barriere River.
- b. Where appropriate, require all subdivisions to provide necessary parkland, trail infrastructure, and community facilities to ensure walkable access to essential services and the town centre.
- c. Where feasible, advance green building practices that position Barriere's housing stock toward a net-zero ready standard.
- d. All new subdivisions shall endeavour to incorporate site-based energy strategies including:
 - i. Site orientation that maximizes passive solar gain and seasonal shading.
 - ii. Use of native vegetation and strategic planting to enhance energy efficiency.
 - iii. Promotion of neighbourhood-based renewable energy solutions (e.g., geothermal, micro-wind, waste heat recovery).
 - iv. Onsite stormwater collection systems for non-potable uses such as food production and landscaping.

- v. Support for a Barriere-specific green pilot housing project that showcases innovation in sustainable residential design.
- vi. Cluster housing forms to reduce energy loss and minimize disruption to natural systems, drainage, and wildlife corridors.

Commercial Development

Barriere's commercial vitality is centered around two interconnected yet distinct commercial areas (Downtown Core and Yellowhead commercial). Each area plays a unique role in the community, and together they contribute to Barriere's overall social, economic, environmental, and cultural sustainability. A coordinated approach to commercial development will help foster a diverse and resilient local economy.

4.3.5 Diversify and Expand Barriere's Commercial Economy

- a. Strengthen regional connections with Kamloops, Chu Chua, Sun Peaks, Clearwater, and surrounding communities by positioning Barriere as a destination for niche services and amenities.
- b. Advocate for expanded public transit services linking communities along the North Thompson corridor, with a direct connection to Kamloops.
- c. Encourage active participation from residents and businesses in shaping community development and supporting year-round employment.
- d. Leverage existing tourism strengths and expand tourism-based services, including:
 - i. Culinary and hospitality establishments
 - ii. Overnight accommodation
 - iii. Land and water-based recreational and tour operations
- e. Collaborate with local organizations in tourism, arts, culture, and recreation to cultivate a strong, recognizable Barriere identity that attracts and retains visitors.
- f. Support the development of a community-led tourism strategy that explores niche opportunities such as eco-tourism, four-season tourism, agri-tourism, and education-based tourism.
- g. Promote the expansion of available commercial rental space to accommodate emerging businesses.

- h. Identify and implement strategies to enable year-round tourism and enhance local economic stability.

4.3.6 Pursue Funding for Infrastructure that Supports Commercial Growth

- a. Actively pursue diverse funding streams to finance infrastructure projects that directly benefit local businesses and improve commercial viability, including, but not limited to:
 - i. Local improvement levies;
 - ii. Strategic municipal budget allocations;
 - iii. Federal Community Works Fund;
 - iv. Green Municipal Fund;
 - v. Transit and transportation infrastructure grants;
 - vi. Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund; and
 - vii. Infrastructure Canada programs.

4.3.7 Develop and Strengthen Two Interconnected Commercial Cores

- a. Promote simplified and expedited redevelopment processes through supportive land use policies, zoning, and permit systems.
- b. Continually encourage downtown beautification and encourage community pride through participation in programs such as *Barriere Blooms* program.
- c. Create incentives to stimulate small-scale, mixed-use commercial development within the downtown core, fostering a vibrant and walkable community centre.

Industrial Development

Barriere is home to two key industrial areas, each offering unique opportunities for economic growth and long-term community resilience. One is situated in the southernmost part of the municipality on the east side of the Yellowhead Highway, adjacent to the municipal boundary. The second lies to the north, west of the Yellowhead Corridor Development Permit Area. Strategically managing the development of these areas will support the creation of full-time, year-round employment and contribute to a stronger municipal tax base—enabling investment in public amenities and infrastructure.

4.3.8 Diversify and Strengthen the Industrial Sector

- a. Support new industrial ventures, with a strategic focus on environmentally sustainable (“green”) industries.

- b. Promote Barriere as a destination for innovative industrial development by forming partnerships with prospective investors, entrepreneurs, and regional stakeholders.
- c. Support the development of agri-tourism enterprises that integrate processing, packaging, and agricultural value-added activities.
- d. Explore and promote new forest-sector initiatives, including:
 - i. Programs centered on non-timber forest products (e.g., mushrooms, medicinal plants, wild berries);
 - ii. Local value-added wood processing;
 - iii. Forest education and stewardship training.
- e. Assess opportunities for co-generation and biomass-based energy systems that use local feedstocks to produce heat and power, improving energy resilience.
- f. Position Barriere as a potential hub for wildfire recovery research and innovation, including pilot projects, field trials, and partnerships with academic institutions or provincial agencies.

4.3.9 Maximize the Use of Local Resources for Value-Added Industrial Activity

- a. Consider exploring the feasibility of utilizing biomass from local forest operations for renewable energy generation.
- b. Investigate industrial sites suitable for resource recovery facilities or other partnerships that handle, repurpose, or process waste streams from Barriere and the wider region—supporting circular economy principles and waste diversion goals.

4.4 Economic Resiliency

A resilient and adaptive local economy is essential for building a sustainable, self-reliant community. Barriere’s economic foundation has historically been rooted in forestry and agriculture. While these industries continue to play a vital role, the community is embracing a more diversified, inclusive, and innovation-driven approach to economic development. An approach that focuses on leveraging community strengths, local knowledge, and regional partnerships to build economic capacity and long-term prosperity for residents.

4.4.1 Strategic and Community-Centered Economic Development

Foster economic development strategies that reflect Barriere’s values, community strengths, and long-term sustainability goals.

- a. Celebrate and support local resource-based industries, including agriculture, forestry, silviculture, and value-added processing.

- b. Position Barriere as a center for sustainable resource management and applied research in forestry, land stewardship, and agriculture.
- c. Ensure that the community's economic activities are designed to support a high quality of life for residents over the long term.
- d. Actively involve residents and Indigenous communities in economic planning processes.
- e. Continue to support the North Thompson Fall Fair and Rodeo as a cornerstone event for local culture and economic activity.
- f. Encourage value-added opportunities in traditional sectors such as wood processing and agri-food production.
- g. Promote business incubation, mentorship, and support networks for entrepreneurs and start-ups.
- h. Strengthen the local social economy by supporting community-based enterprises and non-profit economic initiatives.

4.4.2 Economic Diversification and Innovation

Build a diverse and adaptable local economy that encourages innovation, entrepreneurship, and knowledge-based industries.

- a. Support local manufacturing, especially in niche agricultural and forest products.
- b. Consider investing in high-speed internet and telecommunications infrastructure to attract remote workers and technology-based businesses.
- c. Encourage applied research, product development, and pilot projects to drive economic innovation.
- d. Collaborate with post-secondary institutions to promote lifelong learning and workforce training.
- e. Support demonstration projects that showcase local ingenuity and promote green technologies.

4.4.3 Strengthening the Local Food and Agricultural Economy

Develop a strong local food system that supports farmers, enhances food security, and contributes to the local economy.

- a. Support sustainable forestry and community forest initiatives as part of the regional resource economy.

- b. Strengthen value-added agricultural enterprises and promote local agri-business development.
- c. Foster a full-cycle local food economy—from production and processing to distribution, consumption, and composting.
- d. Promote the installation of commercial-grade kitchens in public facilities to support food entrepreneurs.
- e. Support the Barriere Farmers Market as a community anchor that showcases local producers and artisans.
- f. Support community food infrastructure such as greenhouses, food storage, drying rooms, and composting facilities, including at the Louis Creek Eco-Depot.
- g. Consider reviewing and adapting land use policies to enable agri-tourism and mixed-use food-based enterprises.\

4.4.4 Leadership in Sustainable Economic Development

Lead in rural innovation through strategic investment, research, and collaboration.

- a. Develop clear linkages between local economic policies, investments, and measurable outcomes.
- b. Support year-round employment opportunities that provide stable and livable incomes.
- c. Elevate agriculture as a long-term economic driver and cultural asset.
- d. As committed in the Memorandum of Understanding, partner with Simpcw First Nation to create opportunities in tourism, forestry, land stewardship, and entrepreneurship.



The 2003 Fire Season In British Columbia Will Not Be Forgotten

The 2003 fire season was one of the most catastrophic in British Columbia's recorded history. Due to an extended drought in the western half of the province, forest firefighters found conditions near impossible in Canada. Lightning strikes, human carelessness, and even an earthquake all contributed to igniting nearly 2,000 fires involving more than 15,000 firefighters and support personnel and burning more than 100,000 hectares at a cost of \$276 million.

The extreme volatility of the dry forests, compounded by the province's difficult terrain, created unprecedented fire behaviour and made fire suppression almost impossible. The ongoing fires put extreme pressure on human and equipment resources and the daily outbreak of new fires (248 fires on one day alone) added an even greater burden on suppression teams.

While fire crews often fought uncontrollable fires that travelled as much as 100 km/hour, and kept several kilometres over highways, waterways and fire trucks, human safety remained a priority and not a single firefighter was lost on the fireline. In addition, there were no civilian deaths or injuries. Two air tankers were lost in the fire, and a helicopter crashed into a tree. Tragically, two air tanker crew members and a helicopter pilot lost their lives while fighting the fires in British Columbia. Ian Mackay, Eric Clark, and Bernhard Georg Freiherr von Manteuffel.

HOUSE

The McLean fire caused the devastating loss or damage of 11 homes and one business in the Lower North Thompson Valley. Due to the fire, 3,000 people were evacuated from the area. The fire was also considered for a second time from the west. Communities of McLean, Kelso, Barriere and Lillooet Creek. The fire resulted in a total loss of 26,000 hectares.

Trees smoldering as the fire consumes the forest and landscape of Lillooet Creek, August 1, 2003.

Firefighters dropping fire retardant.

The Beginning Of A Nightmare - Started By A Cigarette Butt!

The summer drought in a region led to a McLean resident who lit a cigarette butt in a field. That cigarette butt started a fire that spread rapidly and burned for several days.

HOUSE

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SECTION 5: COMMUNITY WELL-BEING POLICIES



5.0 Community Well-being Policies

Community well-being in Barriere is rooted in a strong sense of place, social cohesion, and a high quality of life. Residents benefit from the community's rural charm, proximity to Kamloops, and easy access to a wealth of outdoor recreational opportunities. Barriere offers healthcare, accessible education, diverse recreational amenities, and a level of affordability that makes it attractive to people at all stages of life. These attributes contribute to a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment where residents feel deeply connected to one another.

This sense of connection extends beyond municipal boundaries to include a respectful and collaborative relationship with the Simpcw First Nation of Chu Chua. With a population of just over 700, the Peoples of Simpcw First Nation are a culturally vibrant community grounded in principles of respect, responsibility, and lifelong learning. Their commitment to holistic wellness and cultural continuity enhances the social and cultural fabric of the wider region. The partnership between Barriere and the Simpcw First Nation reflects a shared vision of reconciliation and mutual support as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2025.

Barriere's spirit of volunteerism and civic participation is a hallmark of community life. Residents consistently demonstrate a "can-do" attitude, supporting local initiatives and fostering a culture of cooperation and engagement. Clubs, churches, educational groups, and service organizations offer countless ways for individuals to contribute, strengthening social ties and community resilience.

Arts, culture, and local traditions are also integral to community well-being. From musical performances and theatre to artisan crafts and seasonal festivals, cultural expression is woven into everyday life. Events such as the North Thompson Fall Fair and Rodeo and the Barriere Farmers Market celebrate the community's agricultural heritage and creative spirit, bringing people together and reinforcing a shared sense of identity and pride.

5.1 Social System

5.1.1 Health and Quality of Life

To foster a healthy, inclusive, and vibrant community where residents of all ages enjoy a high quality of life.

- a. Encourage active transportation and multi-modal mobility options.
- b. Support local and sustainable food systems that improve access to fresh, nutritious food.
- c. Promote aging-in-place through accessible housing, services, and inclusive recreational and social opportunities for seniors.
- d. Ensure recreational amenities support physical, mental, and social wellbeing for all residents.
- e. Deliver high-quality, safe, and accessible recreation and leisure options throughout the community.

5.1.2 Access to Health Care and Social Services

To ensure residents have access to high-quality, inclusive, and appropriate health care and social services.

- a. Promote a built environment that supports active, healthy living through well-designed housing, infrastructure, and public spaces.
- b. Collaborate with health authorities to deliver accessible and inclusive health services to all demographics.
- c. Work with neighbouring municipalities, Simpcw First Nation, and various levels of government to address regional health and social service priorities.

5.1.3 Engagement, Education, and Learning

To support inclusive educational pathways and lifelong learning opportunities for all ages.

- a. Collaborate with educational institutions to create local learning hubs, satellite campuses, and workforce development programs.
- b. Advocate for a complete continuum of education, from early childhood through adult learning.
- c. Expand early learning opportunities and support networks for young families and caregivers.

5.1.4 Community Participation and Youth Engagement

To empower residents, especially youth, in the civic life of the community.

- a. Explore opportunities for youth engagement and leadership development through advisory panels and mentorship.
- b. Foster partnerships with School District #73, Interior Health, and others to support integrated community programming.
- c. Provide platforms for community input through town halls, digital forums, and participatory planning.
- d. Promote multigenerational collaboration and mentorship to strengthen community cohesion.

5.1.5 Volunteerism and Leadership Development

To recognize, support, and grow the culture of volunteerism in Barriere.

- a. Celebrate volunteers through annual appreciation events and awards.
- b. Offer training, incentives, and recognition programs to retain and attract volunteers.
- c. Facilitate networking and capacity-building for volunteer groups and individuals.
- d. Engage new residents in community life through volunteer opportunities.

To build community leadership capacity across all demographics.

- a. Encourage volunteer-based management of community assets where appropriate.
- b. Support a comprehensive inventory of community services and volunteer opportunities.
- c. Support formal leadership development programs for youth and adults.

5.1.6 Food Security and Economic Development

To strengthen local food security and celebrate the agricultural heritage of Barriere.

- a. Promote local food at public events and support local food entrepreneurs wherever possible.
- b. Celebrate agriculture through awards, business development, and participation in food-related competitions.
- c. Encourage organic and sustainable farming practices.

- d. Support initiatives such as community gardens and collective food preparation spaces.
- e. Incorporate food-safe infrastructure into community facilities.

To align local food system development with economic growth strategies.

- a. Support community food events and educational campaigns.
- b. Promote local food processing and agri-business opportunities.
- c. Support the Farmers Market and operation models.
- d. Encourage the transformation of underused spaces into community food production areas.
- e. Explore the creation of local compost and nutrient programs using organic waste.

5.1.7 Healthcare Services

The District of Barriere has access to a range of healthcare services designed to meet the needs of the community. The Barriere Health Centre, operated by Interior Health as part of the Kamloops Local Health Area, provides essential clinical services. The centre is supported by a team of up to 3 full-time family physicians. While the centre does not offer acute care beds, it provides a variety of services including:

- Breastfeeding clinics & support
- Child, youth and school immunization program
- Choice in support for independent living
- Community transportation to Kamloops (twice a week)
- Diabetes and nutrition education program
- Health services for community living
- Home health and home support
- Lab collection
- Mental health & substance abuse
- Postpartum care
- Pre- and postnatal support
- Primary care

- Radiology (X-ray)
- School nursing support services
- Telehealth

These services, while comprehensive, are supplemented by nearby hospitals for more specialized care. The Royal Inland Hospital, located 67 kilometers south in Kamloops, is a tertiary-level facility providing high-level specialty medical care, while Dr. Helmcken Memorial Hospital in Clearwater, 63 kilometers to the north, offers additional healthcare services.

5.2 Parks, Recreation, and Trails

Barriere's abundant natural landscape is central to the community's identity and quality of life. Surrounded by forests, rivers, and mountain views, the region offers year-round recreational opportunities that support the physical, mental, and social well-being of residents and visitors alike. From walking, biking, and hiking to skiing, fishing, and hunting, outdoor recreation is an integral part of life in Barriere.

The District maintains a well-developed network of parks, open spaces, trails, and recreational amenities that serve people of all ages and interests. Key community features include:

Fadear Park, which functions as the community's recreational hub and includes:

- Bandshell with washrooms
- Skatepark, splash pad, small basketball court, and playground
- Outdoor exercise equipment
- Covered and open picnic areas
- A walking oval for leisure and fitness
- Community garden and walking paths

Neighbourhood parks, such as Oriole Park and Bradford Park, each with:

- Small playgrounds, benches, and green space

Other community amenities, including:

- Trails along the river's edge for walking and biking
- Ball fields and a multi-use sports court (tennis, pickleball, and seasonal ice skating)

- Fieldhouse with washrooms, event concession, picnic areas, and a dog park
- A volunteer-built and maintained bike park
- Cemetery

These amenities not only provide opportunities for active living but also contribute to environmental goals. Many of Barriere's parks and green spaces act as carbon sinks, supporting the District's climate mitigation objectives while enhancing ecosystem health.

Beyond municipal facilities, Barriere is surrounded by several provincial parks within short driving distances, offering a deeper connection to nature. These include:

- Adams Lake Park
- Barriere Forks Park
- Bonaparte Park
- Chu Chua Cottonwood Park
- Dunn Peak Park
- Eakin Creek Canyon Park
- Emar Lakes Park
- High Lakes Basin Park
- North Thompson Islands Park
- Porcupine Meadows Park
- Tsintsunko Lakes Park.

These protected areas showcase the ecological richness and scenic beauty of the North Thompson Valley, making Barriere a natural base for outdoor tourism and weekend exploration.

Whether it's for an afternoon walk in a local park, nearby recreation site or a weekend getaway to explore the provincial parks, Barriere provides a rich array of parks and recreational spaces for people of all ages to enjoy and connect with the natural world.

The following objectives and policies guide the District's approach to maintaining and expanding recreational opportunities in a manner that is inclusive, accessible, and sustainable:

5.2.1 Ensure the provision of inclusive, accessible, and diverse recreational services and facilities for all residents, while integrating recreation and open space with land use planning, tourism, and active transportation systems.

- a. Consider updating and maintaining the Parks and Open Space Master Plan to guide long-term planning, prioritization, and investment in parks, trails, and natural areas.
- b. Consider updating the Active Transportation Plan, with a focus on expanding and improving existing pedestrian, cycling, and multi-use networks.
- c. Ensure that all recreation facilities and programs are inclusive and accessible to people of all ages, abilities, cultural backgrounds, and income levels.
- d. Require large new developments to dedicate, construct, and connect greenways, trails, and multi-modal paths as part of rezoning and subdivision approvals.
- e. Ensure the provision of sufficient parkland and improve linkages between parks and open spaces to form a cohesive and connected recreational network.

5.2.2 Foster a sense of community ownership and stewardship over parks, trails, and open spaces through engagement, volunteerism, and local leadership.

- a. Encourage community-led gardening, landscaping, and stewardship initiatives, including neighbourhood gardens and urban agriculture projects.
- b. Support community groups in creating and maintaining a Community Recreation Amenities Guide to inform future capital investments and reflect evolving community priorities.
- c. Endeavour to implement a regular maintenance and safety program for parks and trail systems to ensure reasonable accessibility and usability throughout the year.
- d. Work with user groups, sports organizations, and residents to assess needs, promote recreation, and support partnerships.

5.2.3 Provide a wide range of recreational opportunities that support healthy lifestyles, enhance tourism, and reflect the interests of all community members.

- a. Continue expanding the active transportation network to connect neighbourhoods, recreation areas, schools, and commercial centres.
- b. Where practical, extend and formalize trail connections to enhance access and encourage use.

- c. Strengthen regional trail connectivity by supporting the extension of corridors to nearby communities and outdoor destinations, positioning Barriere as a recreational hub in the North Thompson Valley.

5.3 Community Infrastructure

An integrated, forward-looking infrastructure strategy is essential to Barriere's livability, sustainability, and economic prosperity. The District's location along Highway 5 provides strategic advantages such as both a transportation corridor and a growing tourism destination. Community infrastructure in Barriere includes systems for solid waste, water, wastewater, transportation, and digital connectivity, which are critical to supporting growth and maintaining a high quality of life.

Solid Waste

The District of Barriere provides weekly curbside garbage collection, while recycling is collected on an alternating week schedule (paper projects one week and containers the next week). Regulation size garbage containers and totes are used for collection. The District also owns and maintains corrugated cardboard collection bins through the community.

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) manages the Louis Creek Eco-Depot on Agate Bay Road. This facility accepts a wide range of materials including household garbage, recyclables, waste paint, used motor oil, yard waste, wood, and metals. The Eco-Depot is designed to divert materials from landfills, promote recycling, and support regional environmental goals.

5.3.1 Promote an environmentally responsible and efficient solid waste management system.

- a. Encourage best practices in waste reduction, recycling, and composting.
- b. Deliver ongoing public education to improve household and business waste management.
- c. Coordinate local waste initiatives with the TNRD recycling and diversion programs.
- d. Promote the 5 R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover, and Residuals Management in all community waste planning.

Water System

The District of Barriere currently draws its water supply from deep groundwater wells. Water characteristics vary from well to well, but all water supplied is safe. The water is disinfected to comply with Ministry of Health standards before entering the distribution system.

The quantity of water available from these aquifers is limited. Therefore, universal water metering has been introduced to encourage careful water consumption. As Barriere grows, it will eventually become necessary to find a supplementary source of water. Any new sources will require the construction of a treatment plant.

There are still a small number of homes serviced by water licences or private water wells on individual properties. The District is not responsible for private wells.

Wastewater System

Most properties currently have individual septic systems. The Interior Health Authority (IHA) is responsible for approving all systems designed to accommodate flow up to 22,700L/d. This comprises most on-site disposal fields within Barriere. The IHA also tracks septic system failures when they are reported on a case-by-case basis.

On-site systems with a capacity greater than 22,700 L/d require approval and monitoring under the Ministry of Environment's Municipal Wastewater Regulation (MWR). The District requires all new developments that at final build-out will produce sewage volumes requiring an MWR system, to provide the land for, construct and then turn over to the District a commissioned communal system. Headway Investments (4510 Power Rd) is presently the only non-municipal system in Barriere which is regulated under the MWR.

Individual on-site systems tend to be relatively expensive for the property owner over time, and the effluent discharge is low in quality. The disposal fields also limit the options for the use of yard space, including infill housing. Council has adopted a policy that over time will see the majority of properties tied into a municipally owned and operated system. Extension of the sewer network will occur as funding becomes available and will require an update to the current wastewater management plan.

5.3.2 Extend essential infrastructure and services to support sustainable growth.

- a. Connection to the District wastewater system for existing and new developments within the downtown core.
- b. Require all new development to connect to the District water and wastewater system, except where physically or economically unfeasible, as determined by the District.
- c. Require large subdivisions to connect to municipal wastewater or construct a community wastewater system to District standards and dedicate it, including the land, to the District for long term operation and maintenance as determined by the District.
- d. Promote responsible on-site water and septic system management for all existing systems.
- e. Encourage compliance with Provincial regulations for on-site wastewater systems, including on-going maintenance.
- f. Encourage water conservation for both residential and commercial sectors in accordance with the District Water Conservation Plan.

- g. Review water consumption patterns and implement universal water metering to promote conservation.
- h. Maintain auxiliary power systems for the water and wastewater utilities.
- i. Regularly review and update the Water Conservation Plan and Wastewater Master Plan to strengthen eligibility for grant funding and support future water and wastewater infrastructure projects.
- j. Strategically connect underserved areas to District wastewater infrastructure to allow for densification and other housing options.
- k. Promote responsible use and management of private on-site water and septic systems.
- l. Require all new dwellings and commercial buildings to connect to municipal services when available, as determined by the District.

Roads and Transportation

Barriere is located on the Yellowhead Highway (Highway 5), offering direct connections to Kamloops, northern British Columbia, and Alberta. Responsibility for Highway 5 lies with the Province and its contractors, while the District is responsible for maintaining all local roads.

Traffic congestion at key intersections along Highway 5 can occur during summer months. As growth continues, intersection improvements may be required to ensure safety and mobility. Available transportation options in or near Barriere include:

- Health Connections transit service

There are two inland ferries crossing the Thompson River at McLure (43 km) and (Little Fort (93 km), each with a capacity of 2 vehicles and 12 passengers.

5.3.3 Plan for a safe, efficient, and multi-modal transportation network that supports economic growth and community well-being.

- a. Ensure large new developments incorporate walking, cycling, and mobility-friendly features.
- b. Align land use planning with highway safety and mobility goals, particularly along Highway 5.
- c. Provide high-quality signage, lighting, and amenities for all transportation modes.

- d. Design land use adjacent to Highway 5 to be compatible with transportation safety and noise mitigation.
- e. Preserve and enhance local roads to support alternative and active transportation options.
- f. Promote active transportation through a connected, non-motorized trail network.
- g. Foster pedestrian-oriented design that links new developments with existing neighbourhoods and key destinations wherever practical.

5.3.4 Facilitate access to digital infrastructure that supports economic innovation and inclusion.

- a. Encourage the shared use of telecommunications infrastructure to reduce costs and environmental impact.
- b. Promote regional cooperation in expanding broadband and digital service access for all residents and businesses.

Asset Management

5.3.5 Prioritize asset management investments to ensure long-term service reliability.

- a. Maintain and strengthen reserve funding to support proactive infrastructure planning and renewal.
- b. Implement timely and strategic asset replacement projects aligned with lifecycle needs.
- c. Regularly review and, where necessary, update long-range water and wastewater management plans reflect emerging demands and future growth.

5.4 Arts, Culture, and Heritage

Arts, culture, and heritage are essential to the social fabric, civic identity, and creative economy of Barriere. They contribute to community well-being, foster a sense of belonging, and celebrate the shared and diverse histories of the region. The community's cultural landscape is enriched by local organizations, artisans, and heritage champions, whose work strengthens intergenerational connections and enhances Barriere's appeal as a vibrant rural hub in the North Thompson Valley.

The District recognizes that cultural expression and historical preservation are integral to placemaking, tourism, and economic development. Through collaboration, strategic investment, and thoughtful integration into planning and design processes, Barriere aims to cultivate a thriving and inclusive cultural identity that supports lifelong participation and creative expression.

5.4.1 Cultivate a strong, inclusive, and visible cultural identity for Barriere.

- a. Consider incorporating public art and culturally expressive design into civic buildings, streets, and public spaces.
- b. Promote Barriere's creative and cultural industries as key pillars in tourism, economic development, and placemaking strategies.
- c. Consider integrating arts and culture into municipal planning processes, including recreation programming and community design.
- d. Recognize and celebrate arts and culture as essential to community wellbeing and identity.
- e. Encourage participation across all age groups in cultural activities and creative expression.
- f. Where practical, partner with local and regional organizations—such as the Barriere & District Heritage Society and the North Thompson Arts Council—to enhance cultural programming and resource-sharing.
- g. Explore opportunities to protect and conserve heritage buildings, landscapes, and artifacts that contribute to the community's unique character and historical narrative.
- h. Explore opportunities to create and support dedicated spaces for the practice, exhibition, and performance of the arts, including visual, performing, literary, and multimedia arts; and
- i. Support the development of a connected creative network that links artists, artisans, cultural organizations, and residents for knowledge sharing, promotion, and collaboration.

5.4.2 Recognize, protect, and celebrate the cultural and historical heritage of Barriere and the North Thompson Valley.

- a. Where feasible, undertake and maintain an inventory of local historical assets, oral histories, and culturally significant events and places.
- b. Support and collaborate with local heritage organizations, such as the North Thompson Museum and Archives, in preserving and sharing local history.
- c. Where feasible, integrate opportunities for public participation, education, and cultural celebration into the design of public spaces, streetscapes, buildings, and community gathering areas.
- d. Promote heritage as a living component of Barriere's civic identity and an opportunity for intergenerational learning and connection.
- e. Work together with Simpcw First Nation, as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (2025), to identify and protect areas of archaeological and cultural significance.
- f. Consider integrating heritage values into land use planning, especially along the Barriere and North Thompson Rivers.

5.5 Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

Barriere's emergency services are well-coordinated through local, provincial, and regional partnerships to ensure prompt response to emergencies.

RCMP: The local RCMP detachment serves a population of approximately 6,000 and serves Barriere, Chu Chua, and surrounding areas with an assigned team of four full-time officers. The RCMP works closely with community-based organizations like Block Watch, which helps facilitate local alerts, and Crime Stoppers, which allows citizens to anonymously report crimes.

Fire Services: The District's fire department plays a crucial role in emergency response with a full-time fire chief and approximately 22 trained volunteer members, trained in structural and wildfire suppression, highway rescue and more. Firefighting resources include a 500-gallon truck with compressed air and foam system, a 1,000-gallon truck with foam system, a 1,500-gallon fire tender, and a 1-tonne rapid attack truck. Barriere's fire department also has a mutual aid agreement with the Simpcw Volunteer Fire Department, enabling coordinated responses to fires and other emergencies.



Ambulance Services: BC Ambulance Service provides emergency medical services in Barriere, as part of the province's emergency health services network. The ambulance service provides emergency pre-hospital treatment and transportation by ambulance to the public and visitors to BC.

Search and Rescue: Founded in 1982, Barriere Search and Rescue (SAR) is a volunteer organization experienced in ground, embankment, flat water, and auto-extrication rescues. Members are trained in SAR techniques, first aid, rope rescue, and tracking. The unit plays a critical role in regional rescue operations and collaborates with the fire department and other SAR groups as needed.

Barriere First Responders: The Barriere First Responders Society is a not-for-profit volunteer organization that provides emergency medical care in Barriere and surrounding area. They serve as a 'first link' to medical emergencies when ambulances are delayed. They are staffed by volunteers who undertake regular training sessions. Because they integrate with other emergency services, they coordinate closely with the fire department and search and rescue for broader incident management.

Emergency Management and Preparedness: The District of Barriere maintains a local Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan (EMP). While overall emergency planning responsibilities may be delegated to the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD), the District retains authority to declare a state of local emergency and issue evacuation orders. This governance structure ensures that Barriere can respond swiftly and locally while benefiting from the broader coordination and resources of the TNRD.

At the provincial level, the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) supports coordinated emergency response across the region. Locally, Barriere is served by a network of emergency partners, including the Barriere and Simpcw fire departments, BC Ambulance Service, the RCMP, First Responders, and ESS. Citizens have access to the TNRD's emergency alert system, which, along with the District's eNews and web posting, provides timely updates during critical events.



This integrated approach to emergency management—combining local authority, regional coordination, and provincial support—ensures that Barriere is prepared to respond effectively to a wide range of emergencies, including wildfires, floods, medical incidents, and other natural or human-caused disasters.

The following policies are meant to ensure that the District of Barriere remains a safe, resilient, and well-prepared community through proactive planning, coordinated service delivery, and public education.

- Ensure that fire protection, rescue, policing, and emergency response services grow in step with community needs and population change.
- Require new developments to contribute toward enhanced fire protection infrastructure and capacity (e.g., firefighting equipment, water pressure upgrades, fire underwriter surveys) through Amenity Cost Charges (ACC).
- Continue working with the RCMP to ensure effective and adaptable policing strategies to meet the needs of a changing population.
- Provide continued support to the District's fire department through training, recruitment, and modern equipment.
- Promote public safety awareness through community outreach and educational initiatives on emergency preparedness, fire prevention, and risk reduction.
- Collaborate with the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) and other partners to maintain and implement a comprehensive Emergency Preparedness Plan.
- Promote FireSmart principles and best practices for wildfire risk reduction in both urban and interface areas.
- Encourage the integration of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in the planning and approval of all large new development; and
- Empower residents, businesses, and institutions to build personal and collective emergency preparedness through accessible information and training resources.

5.6 Indigenous Reconciliation

5.6.1 Relationship with Simpcw First Nation

Foster a respectful, collaborative, and enduring relationship between the District of Barriere and Simpcw First Nation grounded in reconciliation, mutual understanding, and shared stewardship of the land.

- a. Promote and support meaningful partnerships among the Simpcw First Nation, local organizations, businesses, and all levels of government to advance inclusive community development and cultural recognition.

- b. Maintain clear, consistent, and respectful channels of communication between the District, Simpcw First Nation, Barriere residents, and neighbouring communities to encourage dialogue, transparency, and mutual respect.
- c. Foster meaningful partnerships with Simpcw First Nation through collaborative governance, cultural exchange, and joint initiatives that benefit both communities.
- d. Promote reconciliation by considering Indigenous knowledge, values, and history into local decision-making and planning processes.
- e. Enhance two-way communication channels between Simpcw First Nation, local government, residents, and neighbouring communities.

To support the preservation and celebration of Indigenous cultural resources within the plan area, and to foster respectful and meaningful relationships with the Simpcw First Nation.

- f. Collaborate with the Simpcw First Nation to develop a culturally sensitive communications strategy that supports the protection of archaeological resources and the sharing of Indigenous history through storytelling and education.
- g. Strengthen the District's relationship with the Peoples of Simpcw First Nation by fostering dialogue, mutual understanding, and, when feasible, inclusive planning approaches that honour cultural diversity and traditional knowledge as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2025.

To honour and support traditional food systems and land use practices of Simpcw First Nation.

- h. Facilitate opportunities for Indigenous food gathering, hunting, and fishing in accordance with traditional protocols.
- i. Promote intergenerational learning and awareness of traditional food systems.
- j. Partner with regional food networks, such as the North Thompson Valley Food Coalition, to advance shared goals.



SECTION 6:

CLIMATE

RESILIENCY

There is a growing global consensus that climate change is a direct result of human activities. Observable shifts in weather patterns, the increasing intensity of storms, wildfires, and other natural events, altered growing conditions, changes in water availability, rising incidences of pests and disease, and the degradation of wildlife habitats are all indicators of a changing climate. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) defines climate change as “a change in climate due to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere, and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.”

Two interrelated approaches have emerged as central strategies in climate action:

1. **Climate Mitigation** – This strategy focuses on reducing or avoiding the emission of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases. It includes actions that reduce emissions at the source, as well as mechanisms to capture and store existing CO₂, with the objective of restoring atmospheric concentrations to safer levels, such as 350 parts per million (ppm).
2. **Climate Adaptation** – This involves implementing practical changes on the ground that enable communities and ecosystems to adjust and become more resilient to the current and future impacts of climate change.

A primary driver of climate change is the continued accumulation of CO₂ in the atmosphere, largely from the combustion of fossil fuels for transportation, industrial processes, heating and cooling, energy production, and resource extraction. To address this, there is an urgent need for proactive planning strategies that transition society toward sustainability, reducing emissions and mitigating their long-term impact.

In the District of Barriere, the protection and stewardship of the natural environment are essential to ensuring the health of water supplies, ecosystem integrity, and overall community livability. The Official Community Plan (OCP) reflects an understanding that people are integral to the ecosystem, and that both the economy and society are inextricably linked to environmental health. The OCP supports planning practices that sustain and enhance ecological services, rather than diminish them.

Changing Climate Projections (2021- 2080)



Annual Mean Precipitation (mm)

535 mm

1976-2005

+28 mm
563 mm

2021-2050

+58 mm
593 mm

2051-2080



By 2050, the range in annual precipitation is expected to be 453mm - 690mm, compared to 466mm - 724mm by 2080



Annual Mean Temperature (°C)

3.8

1976-2005

+1.9
5.7

2021-2050

+3.9
7.7

2051-2080

Projected annual range in mean temperature: 4.5 - 9.3 C (2021-2080)



Summer Mean Temperature (°C)

13.9

1976-2005

+2.1
16.0

2021-2050

+4.3
18.2

2051-2080

Projected annual range in mean summer temperature: 14.3 - 20.5 C (2021-2080)



Winter Mean Temperature (°C)

-6.5

1976-2005

+2.1
-4.6

2021-2050

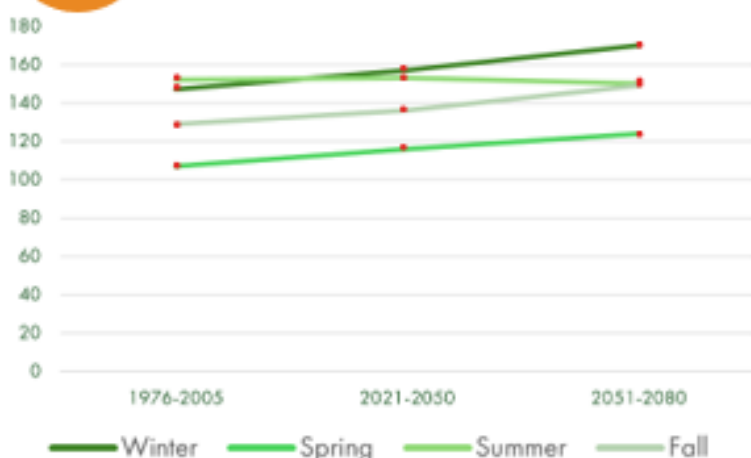
+3.8
-2.7

2051-2080

Projected annual range in mean winter temperature: -7.6 - 0.2 C (2021-2080)



Seasonal Precipitation (mm)



Annual Mean of Hot Days (+30 °C)

1976-2005

6

2021-2050

13

2051-2080

26



Annual Mean of Cold Days (-30 °C)

2

1

0



Frost Free Days

110

142

172

Source: Climate Atlas of Canada: Louis Creek Region

The OCP also acknowledges that while municipal boundaries define governance jurisdiction, ecological systems extend beyond these lines. With this understanding, the District embraces its responsibility to act as a sustainable steward, integrating environmental considerations across all areas of long-term planning.

The District of Barriere is a signatory to the B.C. Climate Action Charter—a collaborative initiative among the Provincial Government, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM), and local governments. The Charter reinforces the importance of coordinated efforts to address climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Aligned with the Charter, the OCP incorporates policy guidance designed to support Barriere's climate objectives. This includes promoting compact, mixed-use development patterns that support a variety of densities and land uses. The plan encourages the development of active transportation infrastructure—such as pedestrian-oriented streets and non-motorized travel networks—to reduce reliance on automobiles.

Furthermore, the OCP emphasizes the importance of integrated waste management strategies, prioritizing waste reduction and promoting recycling. A Water Conservation Plan was endorsed in 2020 setting out objectives to protect the water supply to ensure residents have safe, clean water. It is generally reviewed and updated every 5 years.

6.1 Environment

The conservation of local ecosystems is essential to the health, prosperity, and long-term resilience of both current and future generations. A thriving natural environment underpins the social fabric, economic vitality, and overall sustainability of the community. Protecting the environment is a complex responsibility, shared across federal, provincial, regional, and local governments, each contributing through various strategies, regulations, and collaborative efforts.

Barriere's location at the confluence of the Barriere and North Thompson Rivers, along with its diverse natural features, plays a central role in shaping the community's rural character and enhancing the quality of life for residents. Clean water, fresh air, and a scenic landscape are deeply valued by the people who live here. To preserve these natural assets, the District of Barriere must take a proactive and thoughtful approach to policy-making—one that safeguards the community's environmental integrity, rural identity, and natural beauty for generations to come.

6.1.1 Water Resource Protection and Quality

- a. **Safeguard and enhance the integrity of Barriere's rivers, streams, and groundwater to support ecological services and watershed health.**
 - Establish a comprehensive Groundwater and Surface Water Protection Plan.

- Enforce Riparian Area Regulations for all applicable development encompassing riparian zones.
- Mandate connection to the District water and wastewater system for all new developments, unless proven infeasible, as determined by the District.
- Promote best practices for on-site stormwater treatment, such as oil-water separators.
- Require silt fencing and erosion controls in large construction and development projects.
- Promote the enhancement and protection of aquatic ecosystems and fish habitats.
- Promote permeable landscaping and on-site stormwater retention.
- Mandate oil collector systems for all off-street parking.
- Incorporate auxiliary power systems for water and wastewater treatment and distribution and collection reliability.

6.1.2 Water Conservation and Education

a. Lead by example in water conservation and promote community awareness.

- Maintain a District-wide Water Conservation Plan.
- Require water meters for all new development.
- Integrate conservation values with broader community planning.
- Launch educational initiatives promoting water conservation.
- Encourage grey-water systems and residential rainwater harvesting.
- Provide incentives for installing low-flow fixtures.
- Encourage rainwater reuse in all large new developments.
- Promote public campaigns for sustainable water use.
- When feasible, showcase conservation practices at District facilities (e.g., dual-flush toilets, xeriscaping).

6.1.3 Energy and Emissions Reduction

a. **Collaborate regionally and with senior governments to develop renewable energy.**

- Where feasible, support research in wind, run-of-river, and other renewables.
- Encourage independent power projects (IPPs).
- Conduct municipal building energy audits.
- Map community energy flows and potential.
- Where feasible, retrofit municipal buildings for energy efficiency.
- Where feasible, ensure all new municipal buildings meet green building standards.
- Where feasible, integrate energy and GHG considerations into all planning.
- Promote net-zero ready buildings and solar hot water systems.

b. **Align GHG reduction efforts across housing, transportation, and economic development where possible**

- Advocate for environmental building certifications in commercial/institutional developments.
- Encourage adoption of green technologies.
- Support use of EnergyStar™ appliances in homes.
- Lead in making municipal buildings energy efficient.

6.1.4 Integrated Sustainability

a. **Strive to prioritize long-term environmental benefits over short-term economic gains.**

- Collaborate with developers to reduce construction waste and energy usage.
- Support public awareness campaigns on sustainable practices.
- Ensure new residential developments integrate water and energy-saving technologies.

6.1.5 Environmental Health & Safety

a. Minimize hazard risks from floods, erosion, and landslides.

- Regulate development in hazardous areas via Development Permits.
- Require a QP to assess mitigation options for flood-proofing for developments in flood-prone areas.
- Limit development in sensitive terrain unless mitigation options identified by a QP are approved.
- Require geotechnical reviews for hillside developments.
- Consider implementing and maintaining a community Wildfire Resiliency Plan.

b. Improve air quality and reduce pollution impacts.

- Maintain vehicle idling bylaws and public awareness.
- Consider developing policies for air quality improvement.
- Consider implementing wood stove exchange programs.
- Educate on responsible burning and promote alternatives.

c. Enhance wildfire resilience and integrate FireSmart principles.

- Support fuel load reduction and ecosystem restoration on public and private lands.
- Encourage fire-resistant building materials.
- Consider FireSmart compatibility in land use applications.
- Promote fire safety infrastructure and training.

6.1.6 Ecology, Stewardship & Natural Habitat

a. Protect and enhance local ecosystems and wildlife corridors.

- Where practical, regulate preserving open spaces and native vegetation.
- Design large developments with wildlife corridors and natural features.
- Require native landscaping in large new developments.
- Follow BearSmart and riparian protection protocols, as identified by a QP.
- Where practical, limit pesticide uses and promote ecological landscaping.

- Collaborate with stewardship groups to map and share environmental knowledge.

b. Safeguard biodiversity and manage species at risk.

- Where practical, inventory and protect habitats for vulnerable species.
- Address biodiversity concerns during development planning.

6.2 GHG Management

In alignment with evolving provincial legislation and the global imperative to address climate change, Barriere has incorporated greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction policies into its Official Community Plan. The policies were initially introduced into all TNRD OCPs prior to incorporation of the District. These policies included targets to reduce GHG emissions by 10% by 2020 and 33% by 2050, relative to 2007 levels. This OCP reflects and supports the regional climate goals by integrating equivalent objectives and policy actions.

As a signatory to the BC Climate Action Charter, the District of Barriere commits to advancing climate leadership through the following objectives and implementation strategies:

6.2.1 Climate Action Objectives

a) Leadership & Planning

- Incorporate climate change considerations into all land use planning and development decision-making.
- Promote compact, efficient community design that supports infill development and smart growth principles.
- Strive to align long-range planning initiatives with GHG reduction goals and climate resilience.

b) Transportation & Mobility

- Where feasible develop and expand infrastructure for active transportation, including non-motorized trails and pedestrian connections.
- Encourage reduced car dependency through walkable community design and support for alternative transportation.
- Support carpooling and public transit options wherever feasible.

c) Energy Efficiency & Green Building

- Promote energy-efficient construction practices and encourage retrofitting of existing buildings.

- Explore incentives for builders and homeowners incorporating renewable energy systems such as solar or geothermal.
- Encourage the installation of low-flow water fixtures and water-efficient landscaping in all large new developments.

d) Low-Carbon Economy

- Support home-based businesses that are compatible with residential character and reduce commuting needs.
- Foster green entrepreneurship and the adoption of sustainable technologies at the local level.

e) Food Systems & Agriculture

- Where practical, protect agricultural lands and promote local food systems, including community gardens and farmers' markets.
- Encourage youth and community engagement in local food production and agri-based innovation.

f) Natural Assets & Ecosystems

- Promote tree planting and the preservation of healthy trees and natural vegetation during development.
- Explore the implementation of a community tree-planting incentive program.

g) Waste Reduction & Circular Economy

- Support waste diversion initiatives in alignment with Regional Solid Waste Management Plan, including a target of 30% reduction in waste disposal (from 2004 levels).
- Promote awareness and participation in recycling, composting, and landfill diversion programs through educational outreach.

h) Regional Collaboration

- Participate in the development of a regional GHG reduction strategy led by the TNRD, focusing on:
 - Enhancing public transit and carpooling initiatives.
 - Encourage energy efficiency in municipal and regional buildings.
 - Adopting a LEED Gold or equivalent standard for new public buildings where feasible.

- Where practical, purchasing fuel-efficient vehicles and utilizing videoconferencing to reduce travel.
- Expanding urban and rural forest cover within the District
- Encourage clean energy refueling and charging infrastructure.

i) Monitoring & Advocacy

- Request continued provincial support for tools and funding to monitor GHG emissions and measure progress.
- Raise public awareness of climate action through newsletters, local media, and community guides.



SECTION 7: DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREAS



7.1 What is a DPA?

Development Permit Areas (DPAs) are a planning tool enabled under the *Local Government Act* and implemented through an Official Community Plan. They allow local governments to guide the form, character, and impact of development within specifically designated areas where additional oversight is needed.

DPAs serve to achieve community objectives or address specific site conditions that merit detailed review. These objectives may include:

- Protecting the natural environment, ecosystems, and biological diversity;
- Reducing risk from hazardous conditions, such as flooding or steep slopes;
- Revitalizing commercial areas and enhancing visual appeal; and,
- Shaping the form and character of new development, including commercial, industrial, and multi-family projects.

In designated DPAs, a **Development Permit** is typically required before land is subdivided, buildings are constructed or altered, or land is cleared or modified. This process ensures proposed developments align with the objectives and guidelines established for the DPA. While Development Permits may impose conditions or refine design elements, they cannot change the underlying land use or density permitted by zoning.

In Environmental DPAs, the District may require an assessment report prepared by a Qualified Professional (QP). This report must evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed development on the natural environment and outline any necessary mitigation measures. In some cases, the QP must certify that the proposed development can proceed without causing adverse effects on the environment.

The District will determine the specific requirements for development approval on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the policies in this OCP, the conditions of the site, and the nature of the development. Staff will endeavor to provide clear, timely, and consistent guidance to applicants to support complete and efficient development review processes.

7.2 DPA Requirements & Exemptions

All development applications submitted to the District of Barriere will be assessed for consistency with this OCP, as well as any other relevant municipal plans, policies, and guidelines. Project proponents will be expected to consider the entire OCP and demonstrate how their proposals are consistent with its overall vision and intent.

Within all designated Development Permit Areas, a **Development Permit is required** before undertaking any of the following:

- a. **Subdivision:** Creating one or more new parcels, where any portion of the parent parcel lies within a DPA.
- b. **Construction:** Erecting, adding to, or altering a building, structure, or fence, where any portion of the proposed footprint is within a DPA.

A Development Permit **is not required** for the following minor and routine activities:

- a. Interior renovations not resulting in any change to the exterior of the building;
- b. Additions to buildings which increase the floor area by an amount less than 25%;
- c. Construction of accessory buildings or structures less than 18.5 m² (200 ft²);
- d. Multiple accessory structures with a combined total footprint less than 46.5 m² (500 ft²) on the same parcel
- e. Replacement, upgrading, or repair of roofing;
- f. Installation, repair or placement of utilities infrastructure within a highway right-of-way;
- g. General road construction or maintenance within a designated right-of-way;
- h. Removal of dead, hazardous or nuisance trees, pruning of undergrowth, or routine maintenance of natural vegetation, or existing fences or gates;
- i. Emergency circumstances to address any immediate danger on the site; or
- j. The construction, repair, or maintenance of municipal works by the District or its authorized agents or contractors, including any work performed on municipal lands.

Additional exemptions may apply as outlined under specific DPA guidelines.

The District may, in accordance with the *Local Government Act*, require additional information from an applicant in certain circumstances to ensure the development is suitable for the proposed location.

Where a property is subject to more than one DPA designation, only one Development Permit is required. However, the application must address the guidelines and requirements of all applicable DPAs, and any permit issued must reflect and comply with all overlapping guidelines.

7.3 DPA 1 | Downtown Core

Purpose

The purpose of the **Downtown Core Development Permit Area** (DPA 1) is to guide site design, building form, and streetscape character within the core of the District of Barriere. This area is intended to foster vibrant, mixed-use, commercial, civic, and residential development that reflects and enhances the District's identity. Development should be cohesive, human-scale, and welcoming to both residents and visitors.

Area

The Downtown Core DPA applies to all properties identified on **Map 5: Development Permit Areas 1-3** of this Official Community Plan.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the Downtown Core DPA are to:

- Encourage compact, mixed-use development that integrates commercial and residential uses;
- Promote attractive, cohesive, and functional design;
- Enhance the streetscape to support accessibility, walkability, and connections to parks, trails, and adjacent neighbourhoods; and
- Create a distinctive and inviting downtown core that fosters civic pride and local economic vitality.

Exemptions

A Development Permit is not required for:

- Single-family or two-family residential development;
- Repair of overhead canopies or other pedestrian weather protection devices; or
- Land designated as dedicated parkland.

Guidelines

Development Permits issued within the Downtown Core DPA should conform to the following guidelines, where applicable and practical:

Site Planning

- New development should respond to the design and massing of adjacent buildings and open spaces to ensure visual continuity and a coherent public realm.
- Mixed-use developments should include ground-floor commercial and upper-floor residential uses to support downtown activity and reduce reliance on automobiles.
- The layout of driveways, loading areas, and parking should support smooth on-site circulation without creating queuing or congestion on adjacent public roads.
- Primary access points are located and designed to minimize conflicts with existing traffic movements, public intersections, and pedestrian crossings.

Form and Character

To achieve a high-quality and pedestrian-oriented environment, development should:

- Feature buildings with front-facing facades, natural landscaping, and durable hardscaping that contribute to the streetscape.
- Limit building height to a maximum of three storeys and adhere to Zoning Bylaw regulations.
- Locate residential units above or behind commercial space. Second-storey residential uses are encouraged, with architectural elements such as porches, balconies, or rooftop patios integrated into the design.
- Ensure all visible building elevations, including side and rear façades, are thoughtfully designed.
- Encourage locally/regionally sourced and natural-looking materials, such as wood, brick, rock, or stone, to reinforce a distinct regional character.
- Select materials that are durable and appropriate for Barriere's seasonal climate—hot summers and cold, snowy winters.
- Integrate materials with high fire resistance in accordance with BC FireSmart guidelines, including fire-resistant roofing (e.g., metal, clay tile, asphalt shingles) and cladding (e.g., stucco, brick, metal, or concrete).
- Incorporate sustainable building practices where feasible, including:
 - Solar hot water systems and photovoltaic arrays.
 - Rainwater harvesting and cistern systems.

- Energy-efficient materials and technologies.
- Land designated as dedicated parkland.
- Emphasize quality craftsmanship and cohesive material palettes in keeping with the intended character of the area.

Landscaping and Screening

- Incorporate trees, shrubs, and other vegetation to shade parking areas and soften the visual impact of built environments.
- Where feasible, use permeable surfaces to manage stormwater and reduce heat absorption.
- In relation to neighbouring residential properties, provide adequate buffering and screening between parking lots and adjacent roads or pathways through landscaping or fencing.
- Avoid dense shrubbery or solid walls that block views between sidewalks, driveways, and parking areas.
- Maintain a clear sight triangle at driveway entrances, road intersections, and pedestrian crossings.

Pedestrian Mobility & Safety

- Design buildings to create variety and interest along the street front, avoiding long, blank façades and oversized, monotonous forms.
- Ensure all pedestrian routes and building entrances are aligned with legislation regarding accessibility and barrier-free use.
- Enhance connectivity between the downtown core, Yellowhead Highway Corridor, parks, river trails, and residential neighbourhoods through integrated pedestrian routes.
- Use a mix of materials and architectural detailing at the ground level to create a pedestrian-scale environment.
- Where applicable, include medians in wider roadways to support mid-block pedestrian crossings, enhanced safety, and streetscape beautification (e.g., signage, lighting, planting).
- Design building lighting to be downward-facing and reasonably non-intrusive to adjacent properties or as prescribed in the District's Sign Bylaw.
- Strengthen pedestrian and non-motorized user connections to parks, riverfront trails, and existing public rights-of-way.

Parking

- Minimize the number of access and egress points along public roads; shared driveways and consolidated entrances are encouraged.

- Where possible, off-street parking should be located behind or beside the primary building to prioritize pedestrian frontage.
- Consider the development of shared or municipal parking lots to accommodate overflow and short-term parking needs.

Signage

- Design signage to complement the architecture of the building, avoiding obstruction of key architectural features and pedestrian and vehicle sight lines.
- Signage should be adapted to align with the natural and visual character of the streetscape and storefronts.
- In mixed-use developments, the location of residential entrances shall be clearly identifiable and distinct from commercial entrances.
- Residential addresses shall be prominently displayed at the main residential entry in a manner that is highly visible from the street and well-lit.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction and Sustainability

- Encourage the integration of on-site renewable energy systems, such as solar panels.
- Encourage on-site rainwater harvesting and incorporate sustainable stormwater management solutions.

7.4 DPA 2 | Yellowhead Corridor

Purpose

The **Yellowhead Corridor Development Permit Area** (DPA 2) has been established to create a visually appealing and functional entrance to Barriere. This area plays a vital role in shaping first impressions for visitors, encouraging highway traffic to stop, explore, and connect with the Downtown Core. Development within this corridor should reflect Barriere's character, support commercial activity, and promote safe, accessible movement for all users.

Area

The Yellowhead Corridor DPA applies to all properties identified on **Map 5: Development Permit Areas 1–3** of this Official Community Plan.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the Yellowhead Corridor DPA are to:

- Establish attractive, cohesive design standards for a welcoming commercial service centre;
- Create strong visual and physical connections between the highway corridor, Downtown Core, parks, trails, and community pathways;

- Support a mix of uses, including service commercial and light industrial activities that serve both residents and visitors;
- Provide a safe, appealing, and easily navigable gateway to the community; and
- Enhance the visual quality of the corridor through coordinated landscaping and signage.

Exemptions

A Development Permit is not required for:

- Single-family or two-family residential development;
- Construction of multi-use pathways within Highway 5 right-of-way; or
- Repair of overhead canopies or other pedestrian weather protection devices.

Guidelines

Development Permits issued within the Yellowhead Corridor DPA should conform to the following guidelines, where applicable and practical:

Site Planning

- Position buildings closer to the highway right-of-way to frame the corridor, with parking located to the side or rear of the site.
- Coordinate the design of new buildings with adjacent structures to maintain visual consistency and support an orderly development pattern.
- The layout of driveways, loading areas, and parking should support smooth on-site circulation without creating queuing or congestion on adjacent public roads.
- Primary access points are located and designed to minimize conflicts with existing traffic movements, public intersections, and pedestrian crossings.

Form and Character

- Use visual and physical features such as roundabouts, medians, landscaped boulevards, and gateway signage to reinforce the identity of the Yellowhead Corridor.
- Encourage shared access and egress points to reduce traffic conflicts and improve safety.
- Design buildings and surrounding spaces to contribute to a vibrant, service-oriented corridor that supports both the travelling public and the local community.
- Consider winter conditions in site and building design, particularly at pedestrian and vehicle access points, to mitigate snow shedding and ice buildup.

Landscaping and Screening

- Incorporate high-quality landscaping throughout the corridor to soften hard edges, enhance aesthetics, and screen service areas or parking from view.

- Use native or drought-tolerant plant species that can withstand Barriere's climate and reduce maintenance needs.
- Use visibly appealing fencing materials.

Pedestrian Mobility & Safety

- Install full cut-off lighting to ensure multi-use pathways are well-lit without causing glare or light pollution. Bollard lighting may be used to improve safety and define pedestrian routes.
- Promote the continued development of a multi-use pathway along the Highway #5 right-of-way.
- Enhance connections between the highway corridor, downtown, parks, and surrounding neighbourhoods through clearly defined pedestrian and non-motorized links.

Parking

- Ensure parking areas are safe, universally accessible, and integrated into the overall site design without dominating the streetscape.
- All parking areas shall be hard surfaced with asphalt, concrete, or other durable paving materials and designed to provide adequate drainage.
- Encourage landscaping within parking areas to provide shade and improve visual quality.

Signage

- All signage must comply with the District's signage and wayfinding guidelines and/or bylaw and be designed in harmony with the associated building, avoiding obstruction of architectural features.
- Signage should be adapted to align with the natural and visual character of the streetscape and storefronts.
- Incorporate wayfinding signage for pedestrians, cyclists, and other non-motorized users to support navigation and connectivity throughout the corridor.

7.5 DPA 3 | Industrial Lands

Purpose

The **Industrial Lands Development Permit Area** (DPA 3) is intended to guide the form and character of development within Barriere's two designated industrial areas. The purpose is to ensure that industrial activities are well-integrated with the broader community by minimizing negative impacts on adjacent land uses. Particular attention must be given to managing noise, air quality, and visual appearance, while supporting economic development and efficient land use.

Area

The Industrial Lands DPA applies to all properties identified on **Map 5: Development Permit Areas 1–3** of this Official Community Plan.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the Industrial Lands DPA are to:

- Support and encourage industrial development in strategically designated areas;
- Apply design standards that screen industrial activities from neighbouring non-industrial uses; and
- Ensure safe and efficient pedestrian movement within industrial sites and promote connectivity to other parts of Barriere.

Exemptions

A Development Permit is not required for:

- Trails or non-motorized pathway connections between the industrial area and the broader community;
- Construction of multi-use pathways within the Highway #5 right-of-way; or
- Temporary laydown yards.

Guidelines

Development Permits issued within the Industrial Lands DPA should conform to the following guidelines, where applicable and practical:

Site Planning

- The layout of driveways, loading areas, and parking should support smooth on-site circulation without creating queuing or congestion on adjacent public roads.
- Primary access points are located and designed to minimize conflicts with existing traffic movements, public intersections, and pedestrian crossings.

Form and Character

- New buildings should reflect Barriere’s desired development character by incorporating appropriate architectural detailing, massing, and articulation.
- Use durable building materials that are suitable for Barriere’s climate, characterized by hot dry summers and snowy winters.

- Preferred materials include locally sourced wood, rock, and stone, although alternative materials with similar appearance and quality may be considered during the permit process.

Landscaping and Screening

- Visually unattractive elements—such as outdoor storage areas, utility equipment, and accessory structures—shall be screened with a combination of fencing, landscaping, or both when visible to Highway 5 traffic or residential properties.
- Landscaping shall be used to buffer industrial uses from adjacent non-industrial properties, where applicable.

Pedestrian Mobility & Safety

- Provide clear and safe pedestrian routes from parking areas and sidewalks to main building entrances, ensuring pedestrian circulation and safety is prioritized over vehicular movement.
- In developments with extensive parking areas, define internal pathways to guide safe pedestrian movement between buildings and parking zones.

Parking

- Locate parking and loading areas behind or between buildings, with vehicle access oriented to internal lanes or circulation systems wherever feasible.
- Use vegetation, including tree cover, to provide shade and visual relief in parking areas.
- Where appropriate, consider permeable surface treatments to assist with on-site stormwater management.

Signage

- Signage should complement the building architecture and surrounding context and not obstruct vehicular sight lines.
- Corporate signs should be designed to blend with the natural appearance of façades, minimizing visual disruption.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction and Sustainability

- Encourage the integration of renewable energy systems on-site, including solar panels and other clean energy technologies.
- Incorporate stormwater management features garbage collection and water collection systems including catch basins as part of site design.
- Encourage businesses to implement waste management strategies appropriate to industrial uses, including practices that reduce, recycle, and responsibly dispose of industrial waste.

7.6 DPA 4 | Environmental

Purpose

The **Environmental Development Permit Area** (DPA 4) is established to protect the ecological integrity and function of environmentally sensitive areas, including riparian zones, flood hazards, steep slopes, and other critical natural features. The purpose of this DPA is to ensure that new development avoids negative impacts on water quality, wildlife habitat, slope stability, and long-term ecosystem health.

Area

The Environmental DPA applies to all properties identified on **Map 6: DPA 4 | Environmental** of this Official Community Plan.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the Environmental DPA are to:

- Minimize risks to human health, safety, and property;
- Protect riparian areas, wildlife corridors, steep slopes, and other environmentally sensitive features;
- Promote water conservation and responsible stormwater management; and
- Contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the resilience of natural systems.

Exemptions

A Development Permit is not required for:

- External alterations that are entirely within the existing building footprint;
- Removal of hazardous or invasive trees, as identified by a Qualified Professional (QP);
- Restoration or ecological enhancement works recommended by a Qualified Professional (QP);
- Removal of trees deemed to pose wildfire risks under FireSmart BC guidelines, with confirmation from a Qualified Professional (QP);
- Normal farm practices on land within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), provided the area has been previously altered for agricultural use as defined by the *Farm Practices Protection Act*; or
- Reconstruction or repair of a permanent structure, in accordance with Section 532(1) of the *Local Government Act* provided the structure remains on its existing foundation.

Guidelines

Development Permits issued within the Environmental DPA should conform to the following guidelines, where applicable and practical:

Floodplain and Steep Slope Management

- The District shall prepare a Floodplain Management Plan to inform future regulatory frameworks.
- Where feasible, new development should be directed away from riparian areas and steep slopes.
- Development proposals on or near steep slopes must:
 - Reduce the risk of slope instability, erosion, or flooding;
 - Maintain ecological functions of the slope and surrounding area;
 - Include buffer zones and measures to restore or protect natural features; and
 - Be informed by site-specific geotechnical and environmental assessments.

Riparian and Shoreline Protection

- No development is permitted within 30 metres of the natural boundary of a stream, river, or watercourse.
- A reduced setback may be considered with supporting evidence from a Qualified Professional (QP) that shoreline impact is minimized and habitat restoration is incorporated where no significant risk transfer for potential flood waters exists.
- Development should maintain natural drainage patterns and minimize alteration to topography and natural features.

Stormwater and Drainage

- A site-specific stormwater management plan, prepared by a Qualified Professional (QP), is required for any development within the Environmental DPA.
- Post-development runoff must not exceed pre-development levels.
- Stormwater management must address sediment control and runoff quality during and after construction.

Slope Stability

- Lands with natural slopes exceeding 30% must remain in their natural condition.

- Where steep slope conditions render a property otherwise undevelopable, development may be permitted with the support of a Qualified Professional (QP) who provides:
 - An erosion and slope stability mitigation plan;
 - An assessment of potential hazards to adjacent lands or developments; and
 - Measures for ecological restoration where applicable.

Existing Development

- Buildings currently located within riparian setbacks, steep slopes, community watersheds, or floodplains shall be recognized as legally non-conforming.

Impervious Surface and Drainage

- Minimize total impervious surface coverage within the Environmental DPA to reduce surface runoff and support groundwater recharge.
- Alteration to natural drainage channels must be minimized.

Landscaping and Restoration

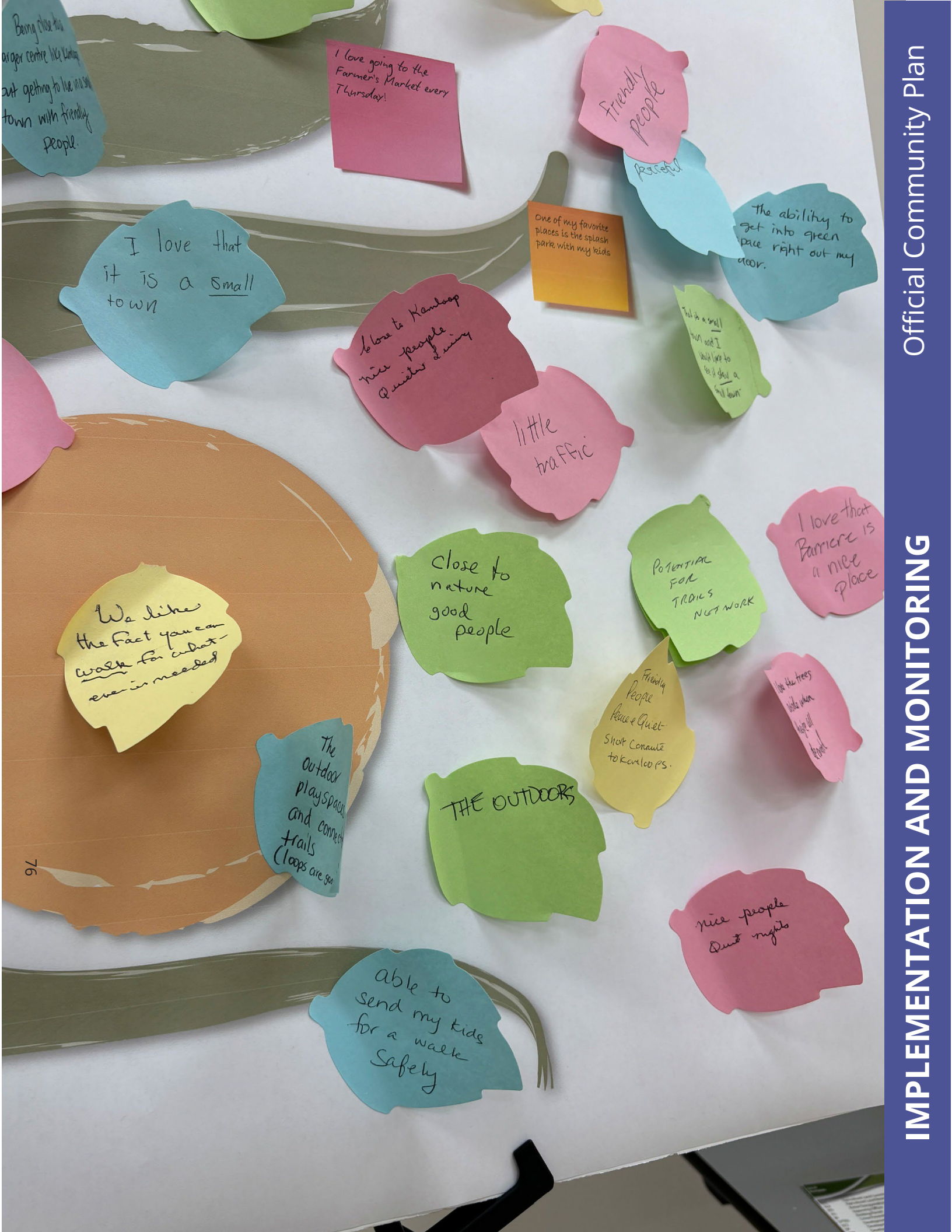
- A landscape plan must be submitted with the Development Permit application, identifying existing and proposed landscape features.
- Plantings within setback areas should support:
 - Erosion control;
 - Bank stabilization; and
 - Maintenance of hydrological function where property risk is a consideration.
- Use native or drought-tolerant vegetation where possible.

Site Contamination

- Where there is evidence or history of potential site contamination, the District may require submission of an Environmental Site Assessment or Environmental Impact Assessment prepared by a Qualified Professional (QP).

Additional Requirements

- The District may request additional site-specific technical studies from a Qualified Professional (QP) as part of the Development Permit application process, depending on the location, sensitivity, and nature of the proposed development.



SECTION 8: IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

To ensure the effective realization of the District of Barriere's vision, principles, and policies as articulated in this Official Community Plan (OCP), the District envisions to adopt a comprehensive framework for implementation, monitoring, and review. This framework would outline the responsibilities, tools, and processes that should guide the OCP's application over time.

Roles and Responsibilities

District Council

Council provides strategic direction and is responsible for ensuring relevant land use decisions and bylaws are consistent with the OCP. This includes consideration of the OCP during reviews of development applications, zoning amendments, and strategic initiatives. The OCP may be amended in response to changing needs and community priorities.

District Administration

Staff will be guided by the OCP in day-to-day land use decision-making and in formulating recommendations for the Council. Administration will evaluate development applications for alignment with OCP policies and collaborate across departments to incorporate these policies into operational activities.

8.1 Implementation Tools

The OCP aspires to guide the District when implementing several other key regulatory instruments:

- **Zoning Bylaw:** Translates land use designations and policy direction into enforceable regulations. It will be reviewed and updated to maintain alignment with the OCP.
- **Subdivision and Development Servicing Bylaw:** Establish standards for land subdivision and municipal service provision.

- **Development Permit Areas (DPAs):** Guide form, character, and environmental protection within designated areas.
- **Development Approval Information:** Allows the District to request studies or assessments necessary to evaluate proposals and ensure they meet OCP objectives.
- **Capital Budgeting and Financial Planning:** The Financial Plan will inform the District's annual capital budget and Five-Year forecast, ensuring infrastructure investments support asset management and long-term community goals.
- **Development Cost Charges (DCCs):** The DCC Bylaw will be periodically updated to ensure that new development contributes equitably to the cost of required infrastructure.
- **Amenity Cost Charges (ACCs):** The ACC Bylaw will be periodically updated to ensure that new development contributes equitably to the cost of required amenities.

Implementation Planning

The District may consider incorporating relevant OCP aspirations into Council's Strategic Plan on an annual basis to ensure alignment and prioritization of actions.

8.2 Plan Monitoring and Review

Ongoing monitoring is essential to ensure the Official Community Plan remains relevant, responsive, and effective over time. To support this, the District where feasible, envisions to establish measurable targets and indicators that relate to key areas such as housing, environmental protection, infrastructure capacity, and economic development. Development applications and municipal decisions envisions to be regularly reviewed to assess their alignment with OCP policies and objectives. In addition, the District will make use of tools like Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to spatially track development trends, helping staff and Council evaluate how well policies are performing and where adjustments may be needed.

8.2.1 OCP Review and Amendment

This OCP is intended to be a living document that can adapt to evolving community needs, growth patterns, changing legislation and emerging priorities. The OCP may be updated through:

- **Comprehensive Review:** Conducted at least once every five years, including public consultation, to evaluate relevance and compliance with provincial legislation (e.g., *Local Government Act*, Housing Needs Assessments).
- **Periodic Amendments:** Considered outside of the regular review cycle to address emerging issues, subject to public engagement and Council approval.

All amendments should, where feasible demonstrate alignment with the OCP's overall vision and policy direction.

8.2.2 Alignment with Other Plans and Policies

To support a coordinated and integrated approach to community development, the District aspires to align relevant municipal plans, bylaws, policies, strategies, and regulations with the guiding principles of this Official Community Plan. Financial planning processes, including capital budgeting and updates to Development Cost Charges (DCCs) will be informed by the OCP and Asset Management long range capital planning.

8.3 Temporary Use Permits

Temporary Use Permits are included as an interim (short term) alternative for proposed land uses that may not warrant a permanent changes to the zoning of land. Temporary uses are typically of a trial / interim use nature.

Temporary Use Permits may be issued for new land uses on specific properties which are not otherwise allowed in a zone in the Zoning Bylaw. Conditions may be specified by Council or Council's delegate respecting any required changes to the property to allow the temporary use, and any restoration to the property following expiration of the permit. Pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, a Temporary Use Permit can be issued for up to three years, with the possibility of one renewal for up to an additional three years

8.3.1 Designation of Temporary Use Permit Areas

Pursuant to Section 492 and 493 of the *Local Government Act*, all lands within the boundaries of the District of Barriere, as shown in Map 1, are designated as areas in which temporary uses may be permitted.

8.3.2 General Considerations for Issuance

When evaluating a TUP application, Council or Councils delegate may consider several factors:

- Not be noxious or undesirable due to smoke, noise, vibration, dirt, glare, odour, or electrical interference;
- Not be a health hazard;
- Not have a negative impact on adjacent lands;
- Not create a significant increase in the level or demand for municipal services; and
- Not permanently alter the site upon which it is located.

8.3.3 Terms and Conditions

Council or Council's delegate may attach conditions to any TUP issued to reduce impacts and ensure compliance. These conditions may include, but are not limited to:

- Hours of operation;
- Size and siting of buildings or structures;
- Landscaping and screening;
- Site restoration and clean up following the temporary use;
- Requiring security to guarantee performance of conditions or restoration;
- Registration of a Section 219 covenant and statutory right of way; and/or
- Restrictions as to the days and hours of use.

By establishing a framework for Temporary Use Permits, the District of Barriere aims to provide a mechanism for accommodating beneficial short-term uses while ensuring that they are appropriately managed and do not compromise the long-term vision and character of the community as outlined in this Official Community Plan.



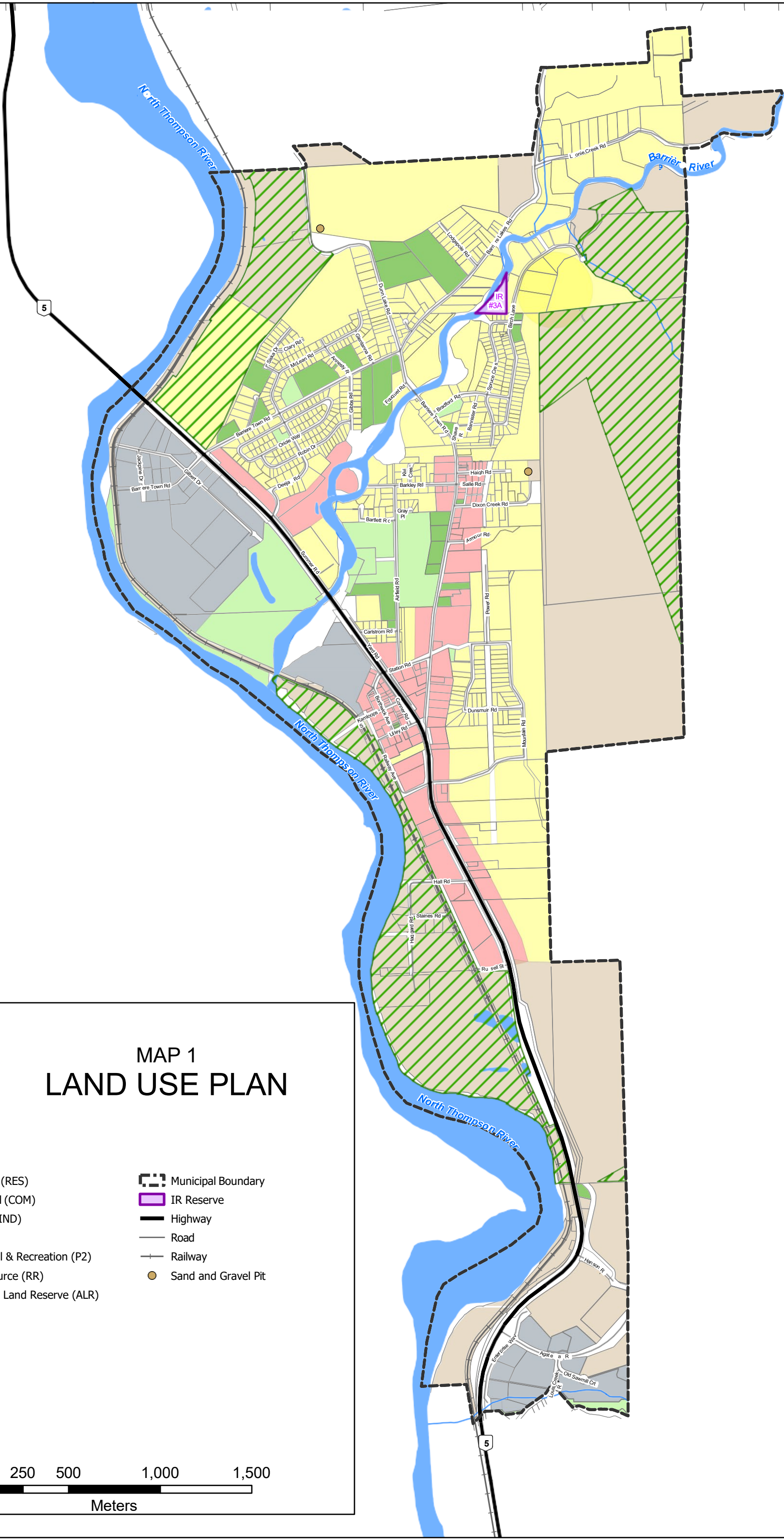
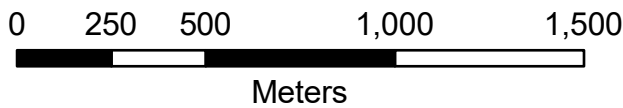


MAP 1 LAND USE PLAN



- Residential (RES)
- Commerical (COM)
- Industrial (IND)
- Park (P1)
- Institutional & Recreation (P2)
- Rural Resource (RR)
- Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)

- Municipal Boundary
- IR Reserve
- Highway
- Road
- Railway
- Sand and Gravel Pit





5

North Thompson River

Barrier River

5

North Thompson River

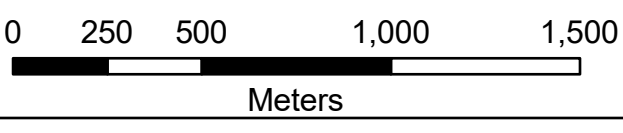
North Thompson River



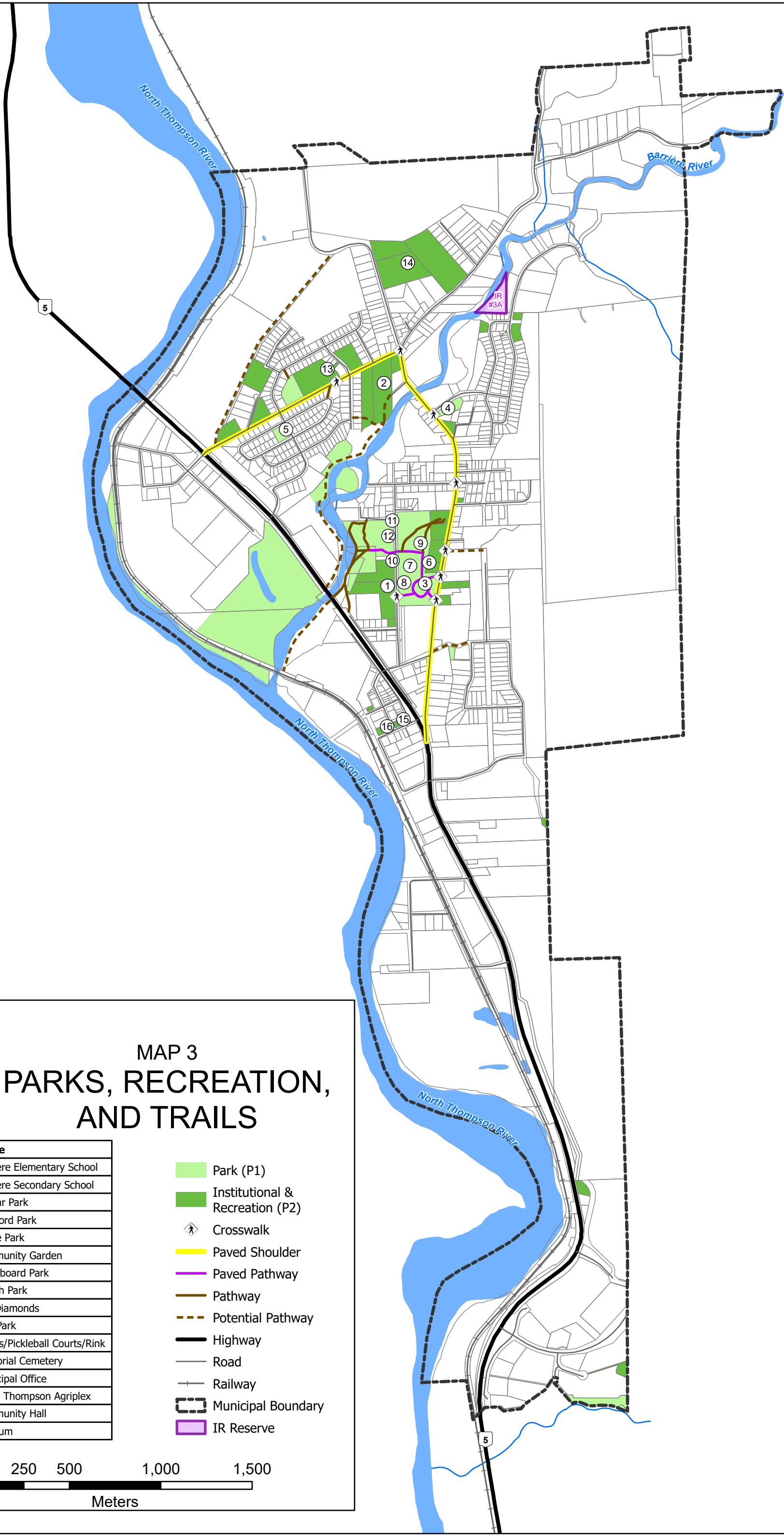
MAP 2 TRANSPORTATION

- Highway
- Collector
- Local
- Paved Shoulder
- Railway

- IR Reserve
- Municipal Boundary



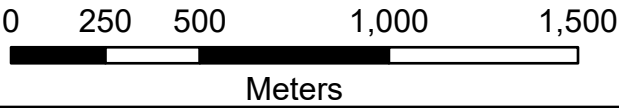
Meters

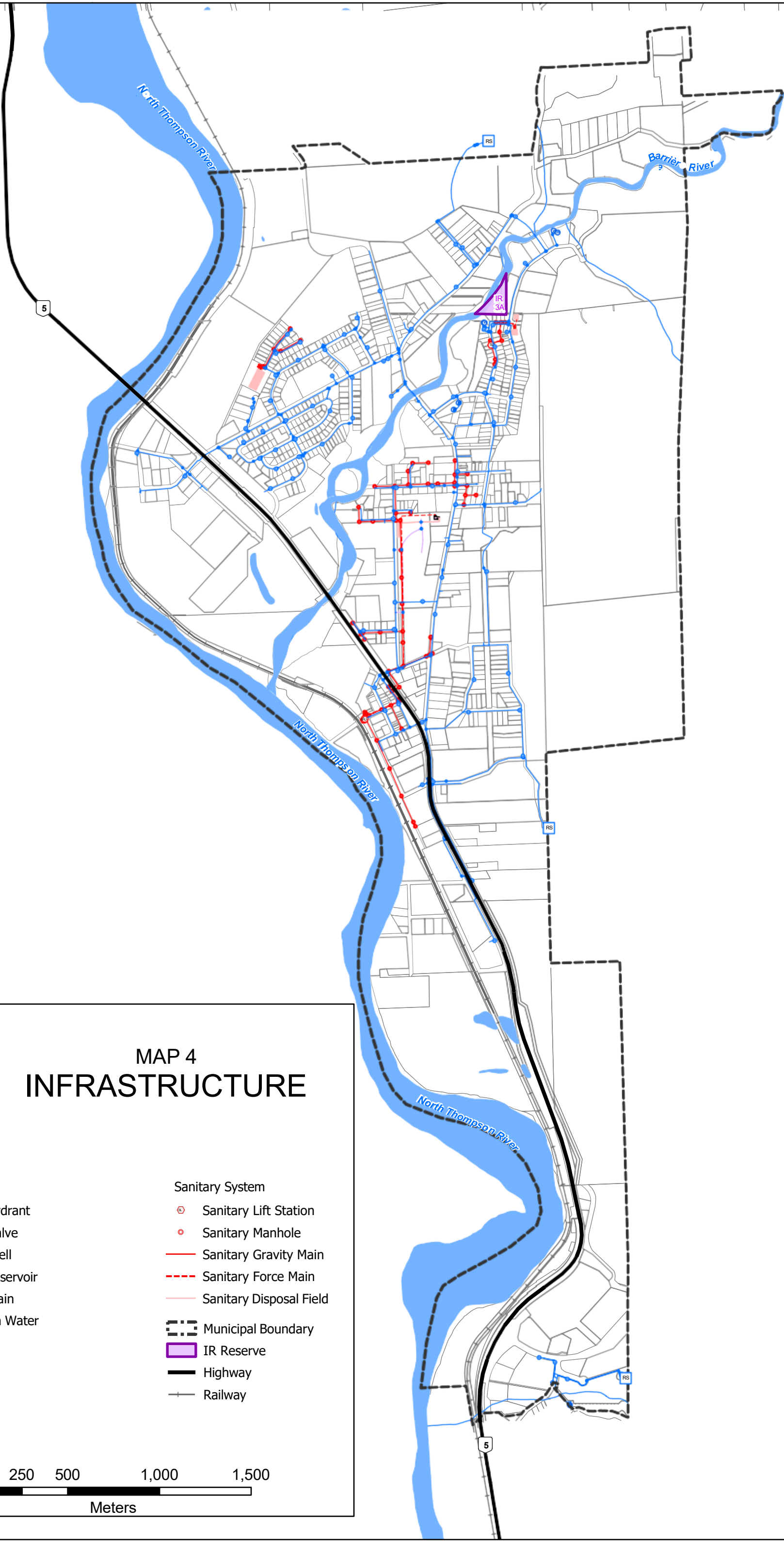


MAP 3 PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS

Number	Name
1	Barrière Elementary School
2	Barrière Secondary School
3	Fadear Park
4	Bradford Park
5	Oriole Park
6	Community Garden
7	Skateboard Park
8	Splash Park
9	Ball Diamonds
10	Dog Park
11	Tennis/Pickleball Courts/Rink
12	Memorial Cemetery
13	Municipal Office
14	North Thompson Agriplex
15	Community Hall
16	Museum

- Park (P1)
- Institutional & Recreation (P2)
- Crosswalk
- Paved Shoulder
- Paved Pathway
- Pathway
- Potential Pathway
- Highway
- Road
- Railway
- Municipal Boundary
- IR Reserve





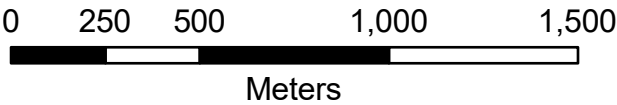
MAP 4 INFRASTRUCTURE

Water System

- Water Hydrant
- Water Valve
- Water Well
- Water Reservoir
- Water Main
- Irrigation Water

Sanitary System

- Sanitary Lift Station
- Sanitary Manhole
- Sanitary Gravity Main
- Sanitary Force Main
- Sanitary Disposal Field
- Municipal Boundary
- IR Reserve
- Highway
- Railway





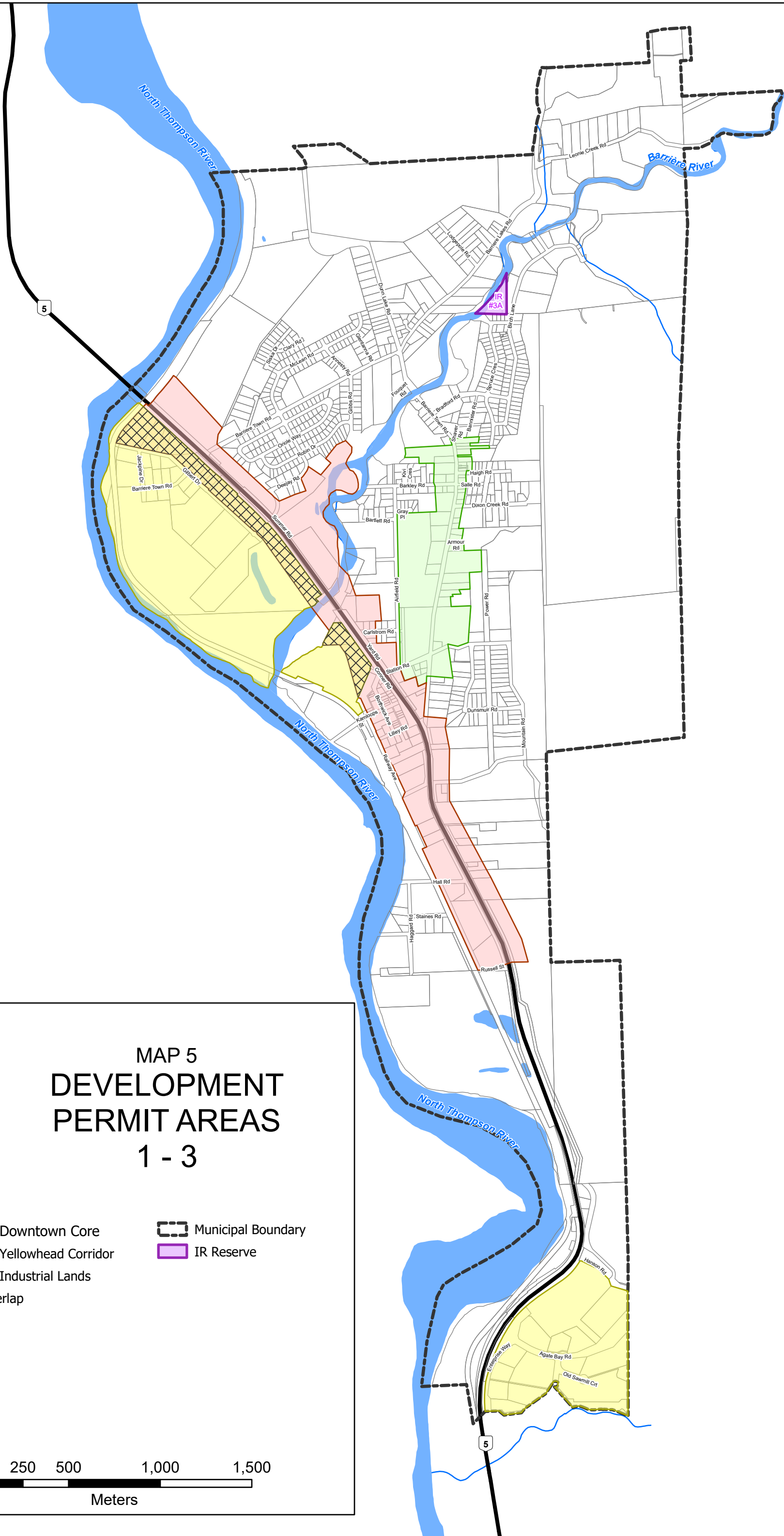
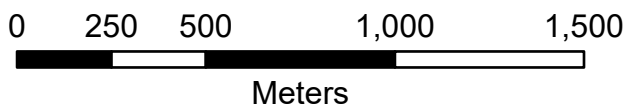
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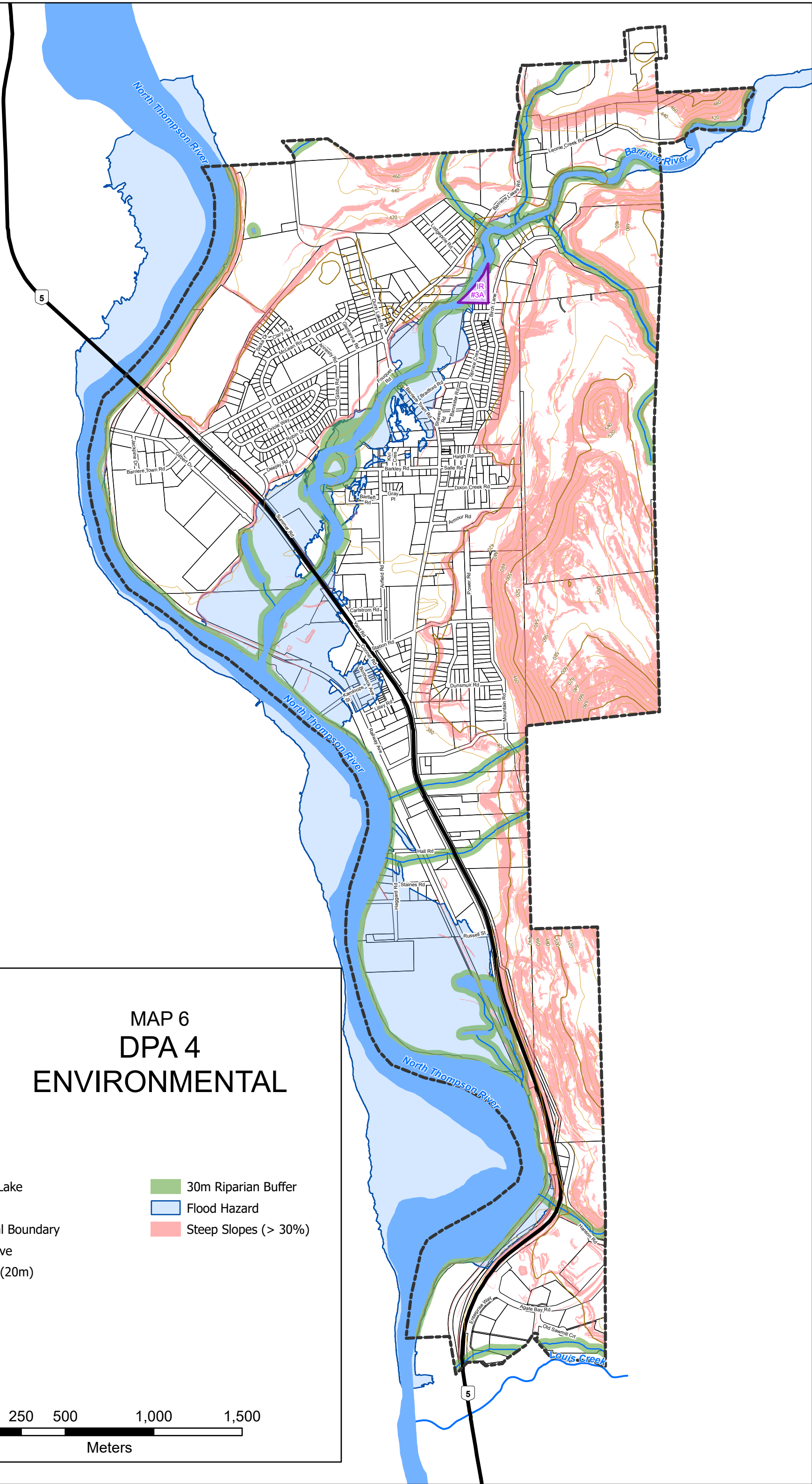
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MAP 5 DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREAS 1 - 3

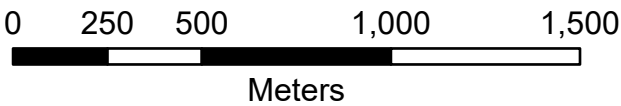
- | | |
|---|--|
|  DPA 1 - Downtown Core |  Municipal Boundary |
|  DPA 2 - Yellowhead Corridor |  IR Reserve |
|  DPA 3 - Industrial Lands | |
|  DPA Overlap | |

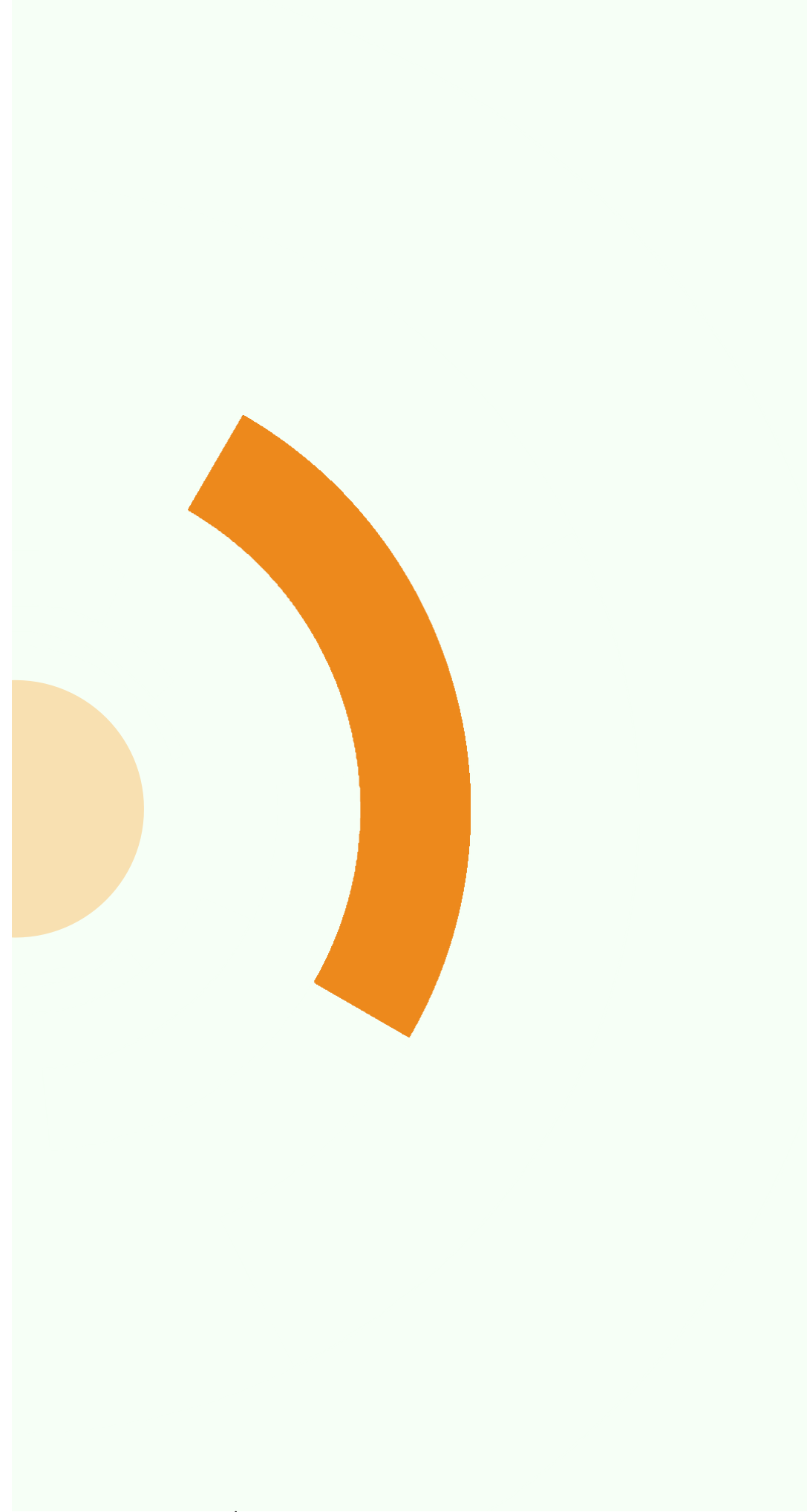




MAP 6
DPA 4
ENVIRONMENTAL

- | | |
|--|--|
|  River + Lake |  30m Riparian Buffer |
|  Stream |  Flood Hazard |
|  Municipal Boundary |  Steep Slopes (> 30%) |
|  IR Reserve | |
|  Contour (20m) | |





APPENDICES

Definitions

Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)	A separate self-contained dwelling unit on a parcel that is smaller and subordinate to the principal dwelling unit and may be located within the principal dwelling unit or in a separate independent building on the property.
Active Transportation	Human-powered forms of moving from one place to another. It can take many forms and is continually evolving as new technologies emerge, but typically includes walking, cycling, skateboarding, and other emerging modes of human powered transportation.
Affordable Housing	Housing which has a mortgage or rent payment that does not exceed 30% of gross income, that is provided for low to moderate income households having an income that is 80% or less than the median household income for the community. Affordable housing may include subsidized housing administered by BC Housing, the Capital Region Housing Corporation, or other non-profit housing societies in the region secured by a Housing Agreement.
Agricultural Land Commission (ALC)	The independent administrative tribunal dedicated to preserving agricultural land and encouraging farming in British Columbia.
Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)	The provincial designation in which agriculture land is officially designated and protected under provincial legislation. Farming is encouraged and non-agricultural uses are restricted.

Amenity Cost Charges (ACC)	Amenity Cost Charges are a development finance tool that allow local governments to collect funds for amenities such as community centres, recreation centres, daycares, and libraries from new development that results in increased population of residents or workers.
Climate Action Plan	A framework document for measuring, tracking, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adopting climate adaptation measures. These documents are used as a framework to guide administrative bodies in addressing the impact of climate change in their communities.
Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)	The Mission of CPTED is to reduce the fear and incidence of crime thereby working towards an improvement of the quality of life by promoting Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) throughout Canada.
Development Cost Charges (DCC)	Development Cost Charges (DCCs) are monies that are collected from land developers by a municipality, to offset some of the infrastructure expenditures incurred, to service the needs of new development. Imposed by bylaw pursuant to the Local Government Act, the charges are intended to facilitate development by providing a method to finance capital projects related to roads, drainage, sewers, water and parkland.
Development Permit Areas (DPAs)	Locations that need special treatment for certain purposes including the protection of development from hazards, establishing objectives for form and character in specified circumstances, or revitalization of a commercial use area.
Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs)	Areas identified through reports, studies, plans, or government designation as having special environmental attributes that are worthy of preservation, conservation, protection, or special area.
FireSmart	A set of design principles to protect communities from the wildfires.
Floodplain, Freeboard (Floodplain)	Lands within a lowland area, whether diked or floodproofed, which by reasons of land elevation are susceptible to flooding from an adjoining watercourse, lake, or other body of water, are reasonably required to discharge the flood flow of a 1:200-year flood. The freeboard floodplain is commonly referred to as the floodplain.

Hazard Area	An area subject to natural events known to result in death or endangerment of the works of man, such as stream flooding, ground water, flash flooding, erosion or fluvial deposits, landslides, earthquakes, weak foundation soils, and other hazards unique to a local or regional area.
Household	A person or group of persons who occupy the same dwelling.
Household Income	The sum of the incomes of all people aged 15 years or older residing at a single address.
Infill	Development a vacant piece of land in areas fully serviced by community infrastructure (water, sewer, roads, etc.).
Intensification	Upgrading an existing developed property to a more intensive development or higher density than currently exists. Intensification can include adding additional units (such as ACUs, ADUs and secondary suites) or the conversion of existing buildings (ex: converting a single-family dwelling to a triplex).
Legally Non-Conforming	Occurs when the use of land or a building or structure is not permitted by the current zoning bylaw but was permitted by a previous bylaw.
Local Government Act	Is a Provincial Government Act that empowers, guides, limits and affects local governments. The Act covers important authorities for both municipalities and regional Districts, such as planning and land use powers and statutory requirements for administering elections.
Long Term Rental (LTR)	A lease term for a residential dwelling or dwelling unit to tenants for a continuous period of 30 days or more.
Manufactured Homes	Any structure, whether ordinarily equipped with wheels or not, that is designed, constructed or manufactured to provide residential accommodation and to be moved from one place to another by being towed or carried.
Ministry of Transportation & Transit (MOTT)	The Ministry of Transportation and Transit plans and improves transportation networks, builds new infrastructure, provides transportation services, and implements transportation policies, to allow for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods.
Mixed Use Buildings	A building or groups of buildings under one ownership designed to encourage a diversity of compatible land uses, which include a mixture of two or more of the following uses: residential, office, retail, recreational, light industrial, and other miscellaneous uses.

Purpose-Build Rental Housing	Housing that is designed and built expressly as long-term rental accommodation. It may also include legal agreements that require the housing to stay as rental housing.
Qualified Professional (QP)	A professional who is registered and in good standing with the appropriate B.C. professional organization constituted under an Act. The QP must be acting under that association's code of ethics, and subject to the organization's disciplinary action.
Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP)	An applied scientist or technologist who is registered and in good standing with an appropriate B.C. professional organization constituted under an Act. The QEP must be acting under that association's code of ethics, and subject to the organization's disciplinary action.
Short-Term Rental (STR)	A dwelling unit or multiple dwelling units that are rented for a continuous period of less than 30 days.
Site Plan	A drawing or set of drawings that can include: Existing site development features (e.g. buildings, structures, parking areas, pathways), Existing natural areas, drainage patterns, waterbodies, wetlands, and other natural features Proposed new buildings, structures, roads, pathways, parking and loading areas and other improvements; Proposed impacts to natural areas, drainage patterns, waterbodies, wetlands.
Smart Growth	A range of development and conservation strategies that help protect our health and natural environment and make our communities more attractive, economically stronger, and more socially diverse by applying 10 basic principles to guide smart growth strategies.
Supportive Housing	Housing with on-site supports for adults, seniors and people with disabilities at risk of, or experiencing, being unhoused.
Temporary Use Permit (TUP)	Under sec. 492 of the Local Government Act, Temporary Use Permits (TUPs) may be considered by the District to allow specific land uses to occur, for a limited time, that would not otherwise be permitted.
Transitional Housing	Long-term housing (three months to three years typically) for individuals who require additional social, and health supports and may be at-risk of being unhoused.

Truth and Reconciliation	The process of establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples and in Canada that includes acknowledging what happened in the residential school system. Truth and reconciliation include addressing 94 “calls to action” to further reconciliation between Canadians and Indigenous peoples stemming from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, which documented the truth of Survivors, their families, communities and anyone personally affected by the residential school experience.
Universal Design	Design standards meant to create buildings and environments that are inherently accessible to people of all ages and physical abilities.
Wayfinding	A system that assists travelers in orienting, navigating, and moving about an environment using visual cues or other measures, including signage.

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

