

SUMMER VILLAGE OF BIRCHCLIFF

OPEN SPACE PLAN



Adopted - March 2014

Prepared by: Bill Shaw, FCIP, RPP
BPS Consulting Ltd.

SUMMER VILLAGE OF BIRCHCLIFF

OPEN SPACE PLAN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART ONE: BACKGROUND

Page

1.0	Introduction.....	1
1.1	Purpose	
1.2	Plan Area and Application	
1.3	Authority	
1.4	Process	
2.0	Community Aspirations	2
2.1	Community Planning Strategy	
2.2	Community Vision and Core Values	
3.0	Landscapes Features	2
3.1	Sylvan Lake Watershed	
3.2	Birchcliff's Immediate Watershed	
4.0	Water Quality	3
4.1	Water Quality	
5.0	Planning Framework	3
5.1	Intermunicipal	
5.2	Summer Village of Birchcliff Municipal Development Plan 2013	
5.3	Lacombe County	
6.0	Birchcliff Community Open Space Inventory	7
6.1	Open Space Inventory	
6.2.	Ownership	

PART TWO: OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

7.0	Vision, Goals and Key Elements	9
7.1	Open Space Vision	
7.2	Goals	
7.3	Key Elements	
8.0	Open Space Classification.....	10
8.1	Classification	
8.2	Primary Purposes	
8.3	Assignment of Classification	

PART THREE: ACTIONS

9.0	Natural Aspects and Conservation	12
9.1	Background	
9.2	Actions	

10.0	Healthy Community	13
10.1	Background	
10.2	Actions	
11.0	Open Space Sites Uses and Amenities	13
11.1	Background	
11.2	Actions	
12.0	Trail and Path System	15
12.1	Background	
12.2	Actions	
13.0	Open Space Management.....	16
13.1	Background	
13.2	Actions	
14.0	Open Space Plan Implementation.....	17
14.1	Background	
14.2	Actions	

APPENDIX

- A Inventory of Open Spaces

FIGURES

- 1-1 Sylvan Lake Watershed
- 2-1 Sylvan Lake Watershed Land Cover
- 3-1 Birchcliff Aerial Image
- 4-1 Community Open Space Lands
- 5-1 Open Space Classification
- 6-1 Potential Trail/Path System

TABLES

- 1. Community Open Space Inventory
- 2. Community Open Spaces by Category
- 3. Summer Village of Birchcliff Open Space System: Appropriate Uses and Amenities

REFERENCES

Note: Credits for figures (maps)

- Figure 1-1 AXIS Environmental Consulting Ltd.
- Figure 2-1 AXIS Environmental Consulting Ltd.

PART ONE: BACKGROUND

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Open Space Plan is to guide the management and use of lands considered as community open spaces within the Summer Village of Birchcliff. The Open Space Plan also serves to implement the open space goals and policies contained the Summer Village of Birchcliff Municipal Development Plan 2013.

1.2 Plan Area and Application

This plan primarily addresses public (community) land within the Summer Village of Birchcliff. Through the land use planning provisions in the *Municipal Government Act*, the Summer Village has direct authority over their management and use of open spaces within the community. Management of these open spaces is far less complicated as the Summer Village is 'owner' or 'assigned steward' of these lands.

Where small portions of private lands are addressed, these are in relation to potential use as connecting trail corridors and the conservation of 'natural' attractiveness. As well, land within Lacombe County is also addressed. These relate to common needs for the integration of a pathway system and stormwater impacts on lands within the Summer Village.

1.3 Authority

The Open Space Plan was prepared and adopted in accordance with provisions of the *Municipal Government Act*. Section 180 of the Act permits a municipal council to adopt, by resolution, a plan in accordance with the procedures required by Section 606 of the Act.

1.4 Process

A draft of the Open Space Plan was prepared concurrently with the various drafts of the updated Municipal Development Plan. This took place between October 2012 and May 2013.

With Council input, the draft Open Space Plan was completed in May 2013. Council approved the release of the draft Open Space Plan to the community ratepayers and referred the plan to municipalities, interested government departments and other agencies around Sylvan Lake for their review and input.

A public open house was held in June, with approximately 35 people attending. As well, community ratepayers were able to view the draft plan on the Summer Village website and submit comments. Input on the draft Open Space Plan expressed at the open house, on comment sheets, letters and emails, and the response from Lacombe County were considered by Council in August. Discussions by Council led to a number of potential changes to the draft Open Space Plan, which were provided to Council.

In February 2014, Council approved a number of changes to the plan. The Open Space Plan was adopted by Council by resolution in March 2014.

2.0 OPEN SPACE PLAN FRAMEWORK

2.1 Community Planning Strategy

In 2012 Council prepared a Draft Planning Strategy for the Summer of Village Birchcliff to lead into the preparation of a new Municipal Development Plan for the Summer Village. A fundamental purpose of the Draft Planning Strategy report is to outline strategic planning directions for the future of the Summer Village, including the community vision and core values. These provide key elements upon which the Open Space Plan is based.

2.2 Community Vision and Core Values

A Community Vision expresses what residents desire the community to be like in 25 to 30 years. The community vision statement for Birchcliff is:

The Summer Village of Birchcliff remains a quiet, safe and secure community in serving to meet the lifestyle needs of permanent and seasonal residents. The community character will be personified by passive, family-oriented uses and activities and exemplified by the country lane atmosphere of Birchcliff Road. The natural attractiveness of the community continues to be conserved by the residents' attitudes of respect and stewardship of the landscapes, views, wildlife, vegetation, shoreline and water quality of the provincially significant Sylvan Lake.

Intertwined within the Birchcliff community vision are the following core values.

1. This is HOME.
2. A traditional small village atmosphere, in which safety and security are mainstays.
3. The quiet, peaceful enjoyment of private property and public areas.
4. Retaining the quality of life of its residents.
5. Being champions of stewardship to conserve the natural setting of the village and the health of Sylvan Lake and its watershed.
6. Community autonomy, while still collaborating responsibly in planning, guiding and managing growth and land use change around Sylvan Lake.

3.0 LANDSCAPE FEATURES

3.1 Sylvan Lake Watershed

The Sylvan Lake watershed contains 106 km², including the lake which covers 42 km². The watershed is shown on Figure 1-1 with Birchcliff located along the southeastern shoreline of Sylvan Lake.

Figure 2-1 shows the land use cover within the watershed in 2005. As reported by AXYS Environmental Consulting Ltd. in the July 2005 *Sylvan Lake Water Quality Assessment report and Watershed Management Considerations*, 75% of the land within the watershed was in agricultural use and only 9% developed for residential uses. From Figure 2-1 it is assumed that the remaining 19% was wooded and shrub vegetation. Since 2005, there has been a reduction in agricultural land and woodland and an expansion in developed land.

3.2 Birchcliff's Immediate Watershed

While the Summer Village is mostly located on a gently rolling 'lowland' adjacent to Sylvan Lake, the lands immediately to the north rise, sometimes gently and in places steeply, to form a line of hills which crest 1,200 m (0.75 miles) to 1,600 m (1.25 miles) from the shoreline. From these highlands a number of small streams flow, ultimately making their way to Sylvan Lake through Birchcliff via both natural and altered channels. Most of the streams are intermittent, but from time to time their flow can be significant.

A recent aerial image of Birchcliff is shown on Figure 3-1. This shows the hillcrest north of Birchcliff, the series of small ephemeral stream courses to and through the Summer Village and the extent of woodlands adjacent to and within the Summer Village. Cleared lands are used for a variety of agricultural purposes. Along most of Birchcliff's shoreline the banks are steep and for extensive lengths quite high, especially at the west end of the community. Where the slope of the banks allow, the banks are mostly heavily treed. The most frequent disturbances along these banks are staircases leading to docks and landings.

The Sylvan Lake Management Plan 2000 Update identifies environmentally sensitive areas around Sylvan Lake. One of these is a key ungulate habitat wooded area located between Range Roads 1-4 and 1-5 mostly on adjacent lands in Lacombe County but also extending into lands around the Pentecostal Camp. A second is the key fisheries habitat along the shoreline in front of Birchcliff, extending from Range Road 1-4 to almost Range Road 1-5.

4.0 WATER QUALITY

4.1 Water Quality

As reported by Alberta Environment, the water quality of Sylvan Lake has remained relatively constant over the past two decades and is certainly better than the water quality in Pigeon Lake, Gull Lake and Pine Lake. Sylvan Lake is considered 'mesotrophic' which means it has moderately productive weed and algae growth. This growth enables effective fish spawning habitat, but the water quality remains highly suitable for water contact recreation.

Most of Sylvan Lake's inflow is from ephemeral streams that are short and drain small agricultural areas, which are the primary source of phosphorus and nitrogen entering the lake. Run-off from urban and resort residential areas and leaching from septic systems also impact lake water quality. In spite of impacts from human activities within the watershed, one of the most attractive features of Sylvan Lake is its 'good' water quality.

5.0 PLANNING FRAMEWORK

5.1 Intermunicipal

Most of this subsection will report on planning directions applicable to the immediate Birchcliff watershed. However, it is appropriate to provide the broader planning context for the entire watershed.

Around the lake there are eight municipalities: the Summer Villages of Birchcliff, Jarvis Bay, Norglenwold, Half Moon Bay and Sunbreaker Cove, the Town of Sylvan Lake, Lacombe County

Summer Village of Birchcliff Open Space Plan

March 2014

and Red Deer County. The municipalities cooperate in a number of matters involving and affecting Sylvan Lake and its watershed, including land use planning and wastewater management.

Sylvan Lake Management Plan: 2000 Update

The Sylvan Lake Management Plan: 2000 Update, generally approved by the eight municipalities, still acts a guide to land use planning around the lake. This plan provides general land use areas and related policy directions, while recognizing each municipality may adopt detailed plans for lands within their jurisdiction. The 2000 Update is based on a series of principles, a number of which are directly applicable to this Open Space Plan. The statutory plans of each municipality, including Birchcliff, adhere to these principles. These principles are:

- Land bordering Sylvan Lake should be used to support and take advantage of the residential and recreational potential of the lake (note: each municipality manages residential and recreational uses in accordance with its own policies)
- While significant opportunities for public access and use of the lake must be maintained, it is recognized that new access areas will need to be carefully planned so as to minimize conflicts with surrounding land uses and not be to the detriment of the lake
- In order to protect the water quality of the lake, appropriate measures will be needed to minimize nutrient input from agriculture and other development.

The Birchcliff Open Space Plan reflects these principles.

Sylvan Lake Public Access Study Findings and Recommendations (ISL, 2005)

Consistently identified throughout the Sylvan Lake management planning processes is the need for improved public access to Sylvan Lake. Even though there are numerous public access sites around the lake, the majority of these sites perform at near or above capacity. As a result, because of the insufficient supply of facilities or amenities to meet demands, numerous informal access sites are used, these often being unregulated. These lead to conflicts between recreators and nearby landowners, as well as landscape degradation on public land, and in places on adjacent private land.

The study concluded the challenges to provide improved public access relate to:

- use conflicts on existing sites
- a shortage of management resources, and
- a lack of public land suitable for expanded recreation access and use.

The report identified four objectives to improve public access to Sylvan Lake:

- Address issues related to the management of existing public access lands and facilities prior to the development of new public access
- Provide a balance of public access in the form of day use areas around the lake
- Provide additional boat launch capacity, including facilities and amenities
- Ensure all future subdivision development around the lake, both shoreline and backland, contribute public access through the dedication of land and direct capital contributions.

Regarding potential public access provisions and improvements within Birchcliff, the study identified the large reserve parcel adjacent to the lake and Range Road 1-5 has having potential to facilitate improved public access. The report indicated the reserve could be developed as a family oriented day use site utilizing existing wooded and open space areas. Facilities could include picnic sites, washroom, parking area, loop path and boardwalk leading to a lake viewing platform.

5.2 Summer Village of Birchcliff Municipal Development Plan 2013

To provide direction to achieve the Community Vision and Core Values outlined in Section 2.2, the Birchcliff Municipal Development Plan 2013 (MDP) provides a series of goals and policies highly relevant to the Open Space Plan.

The Municipal Development Plan open spaces goals are:

- To establish and implement policies for the dedication and use municipal reserves, environmental reserves and other open spaces.
- To conserve, wherever possible, areas having natural attributes so they remain an integral part of the community fabric.
- To encourage the provision of areas for passive recreation opportunities and pathway linkages.

The following are the most salient policies in the Community Essence – Quality of Life and Community Form and Land Use sections of the Municipal Development Plan that serve to implement these goals.

Policy 4.3.2 states: “In guiding growth and managing land use change, a fundamental goal shall be to sustain the community essence of Birchcliff. The community essence of Birchcliff is a traditional small village atmosphere, in which:

- (a) safety and security are mainstays;
- (b) quiet and peaceful enjoyment of private property continues;
- (c) public areas remain accessible; and
- (d) residents are champions of environmental stewardship.

The Open Space Plan sets out that community open spaces will remain accessible and that sensitive landscape features will be conserved.

Policy 5.3.2 and Map 2 (General Land Use) supports a compatible pattern of land uses, including open spaces. The Open Space Plan guides open spaces to remain accessible to the public and their use be compatible with adjacent land uses. Policy 5.3.17 supports appropriate recreation uses in open space areas. Thus, more active play and related facilities, such as ball diamonds, soccer fields and winter open-air ice rinks are not supported.

Section 6 of the Municipal Development Plan addresses the conservation of the environment. Within this section policies encourage an attitude of stewardship (policies 6.3.1 and 6.3.3), shoreline protection (policies 6.3.4 through 6.3.7), the conservation of fish and wildlife habitat (policy 6.3.9) and the protection of water courses (policy 6.3.11). These are integral to retaining the natural attributes of the community fabric.

Policy 7.3.1 outlines the lands that are considered to be open spaces, these being:

- (a) Environmental Reserve (ER) parcels;
- (b) Municipal Reserve (MR) parcels;
- (c) Reserve (R) and Park (P) parcels;
- (d) Subdivision roads and lanes not used as roads or lanes;
- (e) the portion of Range Road 1-4 and Range Road 1-5 between Birchcliff Road and Sylvan Lake; and
- (f) any other land shown on Map 3 Open Spaces not included in the above, which may in the future include Environmental Reserve Easement (ERE) parcels.

Policy 7.3.10 assigns each open space to one or more of the following classes:

- (a) Natural Area;
- (b) Conservation Area Park;
- (c) Viewpoint Park;
- (d) Greenway Park;
- (e) Community Green;
- (f) Allowance Park.

Policy 7.3.10 further requires the Summer Village to manage each open space in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Development Plan. This Open Space Plan is to assist in the implementation of open space goals and policies contained the Summer Village of Birchcliff Municipal Development Plan 2013.

5.3 Lacombe County

The Birchcliff Open Space Plan needs to consider Lacombe County's land use planning directions for lands adjacent to the Summer Village for two reasons. The first is the development of adjacent lands will impact:

- the use of open space lands in the Summer Village
- 'natural' areas which are important to stormwater management and wildlife habitat
- Sylvan Lake water quality.

The second is that particular County open space policy directions require meaningful responses within the Birchcliff Open Space Plan to amplify the value of the collective open space system within and adjacent to the Summer Village.

Sylvan Lake Area Structure Plan

The Sylvan Lake Area Structure Plan provides for residential development on all land adjacent to the Summer Village. Generally, each development is to provide 10 percent of the land as municipal reserve and 40% as remnant open space. Thus 50% of the parcel is to provided as open space (municipal reserve and remnant open space). Some of the open spaces may be developed for active recreation uses. For back lot residential subdivisions, a full dedication of municipal reserve is required to ensure there are adequate recreation amenities within each subdivision for both residents and the general public, and to provide interconnected green space to accommodate the development of a linked trail system. Developments are to provide trail corridors for use by the residents of the development and the general public. The objective is to ultimately provide an interconnected trail system around the lake which would link to lake a regional trail system. Trail nodes or rest stops should be no further than 1,000 m apart and possibly include a bench, water receptacle and where appropriate an observation platform.

Sylvan Lake Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

The Sylvan Lake Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan builds upon policies in the Sylvan Lake Area Structure Plan to provide guidance for the provision of recreation amenities, including an interconnected trail system while conserving natural landscapes. This plan lists amenities that are both passive and active in nature that may be required within a residential development, the basic seemingly being a local park and playground or a day use area.

Lacombe County may require a developer to provide more than one amenity within their development, in addition to an internal trail system that connects to the long-term lake wide trail.

Approved Development Plans

Two developments have recently been approved adjacent and near to the Summer Village.

The Slopes, located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Range Road 1-4 and Birchcliff Road, provides for develop 49 residential parcels, including 16 parcels for semi-detached homes. Approved following the adoption of the Sylvan Lake Area Structure Plan, this development has 50% open space. The concept includes a constructed wetland for stormwater management, in internal pathway system and corridors for a segment of the lake-wide trail. Also included is a multi-purpose sports court with a public washroom, rest area and parking area.

Immediately north of The Slopes is the approved Highland Park Development also for 49 residential parcels. Approved prior to the adoption of the Sylvan Lake Area Structure Plan, this development has 26% open space. The concept includes an internal pathway system, rest areas including benches and viewing platforms, a corridor for the lake-wide trail link, children's playground an outdoor gym and parking lot.

The principle open space implication for Birchcliff from these two development plans is the interconnected trail systems, including the provision in The Slopes for a corridor along the north side of Birchcliff Road for a pathway link to the west.

6.0 BIRCHCLIFF OPEN SPACE INVENTORY

6.1 Open Space Inventory

The Birchcliff Open Space Plan directly involves only public land. Current community open spaces in Birchcliff are shown on Figure 4-1. These include, as designated on survey plans:

- Environmental Reserve parcels
- Municipal Reserve parcels
- Park and Reserve parcels
- Subdivision roads and lanes (open spaces are the portions not used as roads)
- Range Road 1-4 and Range Road 1-5 between Birchcliff Road and Sylvan Lake.

A total of 33 parcels and road allowances, or portions thereof, are considered to be open space. Table 1 summarizes these.

Table 1
Community Open Space Inventory

Type	Number	Owner
Environmental Reserve	2	Summer Village of Birchcliff
Municipal Reserve	13	Summer Village of Birchcliff
Park/Reserve	9	Summer Village of Birchcliff
Subdivision road /lane	6	Summer Village of Birchcliff
Range Road	2	Province of Alberta
Total	32	

Appendix A is a preliminary inventory of each of the open spaces in Birchcliff. This inventory for each open space indicates: designation, size, general location (lakefront or backland),

adjacent land uses, access and sight lines, present land use, vegetation, bank height (if applicable), path - present or not, and potential use ratings. The inventory for each open space is subject to change based on subsequent reviews and more detailed site examinations.

6.2 Ownership

As indicated in Table 1, all of the open spaces are municipal land with the exception of the portions of two range roads which are provincial land.

PART TWO: OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

7.0 VISION, GOALS AND KEY ELEMENTS

7.1 Open Space Vision

The Open Space Vision for Birchcliff is:

An enduring system of interconnected places which conserve and anchor the natural character of the community while encouraging healthy living through the enjoyment of passive recreation facilities.

7.2 Goals

The open space goals in the Municipal Development Plan also serve as goals for this Open Space Plan. The open space goals are:

1. To establish and implement policies for the dedication and use municipal reserves, environmental reserves and other open spaces.
2. To conserve, wherever possible, areas having natural attributes so they remain an integral part of the community fabric.
3. To encourage the provision of areas for passive recreation opportunities and pathway linkages.

Since this Open Space Plan is an action plan to carry out the above three goals, some more specific goals also are pertinent. These are:

4. To provide a network of open spaces which contribute to the character of the community.
5. To connect open spaces by a series of trails and pathways.
6. To provide access into open space appropriate to the intended use of the open space.
7. To conserve areas which are fragile or more susceptible to impairment from inappropriate use or magnitude of use.
8. To provide amenities which promote and serve healthy leisure time activities.

7.3 Key Elements

From the above community vision, open space goals and the core values reported in Section 2.2, the Open Space Plan needs to address planning, environmental, social and management aspects. Each of these aspects will serve to contribute to retain the quality of life of residents far into the future.

Planning aspects for the open space system include:

- Classification system, including purposes
- Connectivity
- Appropriate accessibility
- Appropriate uses and intensity of uses.

Environmental aspects include:

- Identifying sensitive environments (land and aquatic features)
- Shoreline protection
- Lake water quality protection
- Conserving natural attractiveness.

Social aspects include:

- Promote a healthy community
- Enjoyment of public areas (open spaces)
- Personal and family safety and security
- Sociability
- Building a stewardship ethic.

Management aspects include:

- Open Space Plan approval
- Provision of amenities
- Guardianship and maintenance.

8.0 OPEN SPACE CLASSIFICATION

8.1 Classification

Birchcliff's open space sites and their features lead to the following classification of open spaces. The categories of open spaces are:

1. Natural Area
2. Conservation Area Park
3. Viewpoint Park
4. Greenway Park
5. Community Green
6. Allowance Park.

8.2 Primary Purposes

The primary purpose of each category of open space is as follows:

- Natural Area: landscape preservation and nature appreciation
- Conservation Area Park: landscape conservation and nature appreciation
- Viewpoint Park: path to a lake viewing rest area within a conserved landscape
- Greenway Park: connector trails and paths through woodlands and landscaped areas
- Community Green: combination of woodland conservation and open play areas, with trails/paths
- Allowance Park: lake access - walk only for RA1-4, lake access motor vehicles only in winter for RA1-5 and landscape enhancement.

8.3 Assignment of Classes

Figure 5-1 Open Space Classification allocates each open space to one or more of the six categories of open space. Each open space is to be managed by the Summer Village in accordance with policies of the Municipal Development Plan and the goals and actions of the Open Space Plan.

Table 2 indicates there are nine Natural Areas, five Conservation Area Parks, six Viewpoint Parks, thirteen Greenway Parks, two Community Greens and Allowance Parks.

Summer Village of Birchcliff Open Space Plan

March 2014

Table 2
Community Open Spaces by Category

Type	Quantity	Reference Number (see Figure 5-1)
Natural Area	9	OS1S, OS4, OS6, OS8E, OS10, OS15S, OS17, OS18, OS20
Conservation Area Park	4	RA2, RA3, OS7, RA7
Viewpoint Park	5	RA4, OS8W, RA6, OS16, OS19
Greenway Park	13	OS1N, OS2, OS3, OS9, OS11, OS12, OS13, OS14, OS21, OS22, OS23, OS24, RA8
Community Green	2	OS5, OS15N
Allowance Park	2	RA1-4, RA1-5
Total	35	

Note: compared to Table 1, Table 3 has three more open spaces since OS1, OS8 and OS15 have been divided into two parts for categorization purposes.

PART THREE: ACTIONS

9.0 NATURAL ATTRIBUTES AND CONSERVATION

9.1 Background

A fundamental part of the community character of Birchcliff is the conservation of the Summer Village's natural attributes. While also reported in Section 5.2 of this Open Space Plan, some of the highly relevant statements in the Birchcliff Municipal Development Plan 2013 also bear reporting here.

Vision statement (portion thereof): The natural attractiveness of the community continues to be conserved by the residents' attitudes of respect and stewardship of the landscapes, views, wildlife, vegetation, shoreline and water quality of the provincially significant Sylvan Lake (Section 3.1 of the MDP).

Core value: To conserve the natural setting of the village and the health of Sylvan Lake and its watershed (Section 3.2 of the MDP)

Goal statements:

- To sustain the ambiance of existing shoreline and backland residential areas (Section 5.2 of the MDP)
- To conserve, wherever possible, areas having natural attributes so they remain an integral part of the community fabric (Section 7.2 of the MDP).

A part of the community character, or essence, of Birchcliff as expressed in Policy 4.3.2 is that public areas remain accessible.

9.2 Actions

In the pursuit of retaining the small community character and the natural attractiveness of Birchcliff, the following are recommended actions:

1. Support and implement the policies of the Birchcliff Municipal Development Plan 2013, especially those in Sections 4, 6 and 7.
2. Commit to the conservation of natural attributes as a key element of managing community open spaces.
3. Avoid, wherever possible, the disturbance or removal of natural vegetation on shoreline banks located within community open spaces.
4. Encourage the owners of private land which border Sylvan Lake to avoid, wherever possible, the disturbance or removal of natural vegetation on the banks lining the shoreline of Sylvan Lake.
5. In community open spaces or portions thereof that are not banks abutting the shoreline of Sylvan Lake, only allow the alteration or removal of natural vegetation as may be necessary to reduce wildfire hazards, to improve public safety and to accommodate trails or paths and appropriate passive recreation activities.
6. Encourage uses on community open spaces that are appropriate (activity, intensity) to the environmental values and attributes of each open space.
7. Develop and disseminate educational brochures on the merits of natural open space and actions to sustain these open spaces.

10.0 HEALTHY COMMUNITY

10.1 Background

As stated in the community Vision Statement, Birchcliff "remains a quiet, safe and secure community in serving to meet the lifestyle needs of permanent and seasonal residents. The community character will be personified by passive, family-oriented uses and activities"

Entwined within this vision are two core values, being:

- The quiet, peaceful enjoyment of private property and public areas; and
- Retaining the quality of life of its residents.

Residents desire Birchcliff to be a place of quiet, relaxing living. Organized sports, requiring large fields and indoor facilities, are not desired. But the Summer Village need not be a sedentary enclave where the only outdoor activities are barbequing and lounging while viewing the lake or woodlands. More people are walking, jogging, riding bikes, exploring 'hidden places' and other activities that are neither noisy nor require special sports facilities. Birchcliff is blessed with community spaces and features that are suited to outdoor passive recreation and awareness of the Summer Village's natural attributes.

10.2 Actions

The following are recommended actions to promote healthy living:

1. Plan and develop an integrated system of trails and paths throughout Birchcliff to accommodate walking, jogging and cycling to assist in promoting healthy lifestyles.
2. Plan to connect the community trail and path system to a future regional trail system.
3. Consider the provision of an outdoor exercise 'park', possibly associated with a children's playground.
4. Provide interpretative signs along paths and in more natural open spaces to educate people about natural systems, habitat and their importance to the community fabric (an informed mind is part of healthy living).

11.0 OPEN SPACE SITE USES AND AMENITIES

11.1 Background

As identified in Section 2, Birchcliff has 33 community open space properties. Each open space is allocated to one of six categories of open space, each having an identified principle purpose. Categorization is a planning tool. Key is how the sites are managed, including their appropriate use, means of access, suitable amenities and level of conservation provisions.

11.2 Actions

The following are recommended action to manage open spaces.

1. Use Table 3 - Summer Village of Birchcliff Open Space System: Appropriate Uses and Amenities as a guide in the management of appropriate uses and provision of amenities for each class of open space.

Table 3
SUMMER VILLAGE OF BIRCHCLIFF OPEN SPACE SYSTEM:
APPROPRIATE USES AND AMENITIES

	Natural Area	Conservation Area Park	Viewpoint Park	Greenway Park	Community Green	Allowance Park
Appropriate Amenity						
Paved trail		Δ		Δ	Δ	
Compacted path	□	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ
Boardwalk/bridge	□	□		□	□	
Staircase	□		□	□		
Picnic table			□	□	□	
Bench		□	Δ	Δ	Δ	□
Waste can		□	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ
Appropriate Use						
Walking	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ
Biking (trail only)		Δ		Δ	Δ	Δ (note 3)
Picnicking			□		Δ	
Path/trail rest site		□	Δ	Δ	Δ	
Lake viewing	□		Δ			Δ
Nature appreciation	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ
Pier (note 1)	□		□			
Public utility building				□ (note 2)		
Open play area					Δ	
Play equipment					Δ	
Lake access -walking	□		□			Δ
Lake access - motorized						Δ (note 4)

Δ Appropriate use, subject to an Open Space site concept plan approved by the Summer Village

□ May be an appropriate use, subject to an Open Space site concept plan approved by the Summer Village.

Notes:

1. No pier from OS4, OS8, OS15S, RA6

2. OS1N only

3. RA1-5 only

4. RA1-5 only but only in winter

5. While each amenity or use is worded in the singular, more than one may also be appropriate.

2. Do not permit a motorized use of open spaces, except:
 - (a) wheelchairs or other similar transport for the physically impaired;
 - (b) vehicle access, including snowmobiles, to Sylvan Lake on Range Road 1-5 but only in the winter months;
 - (c) vehicles into designated parking places.
3. Do not formally accommodate athletic activities through the provision of sports fields, courts or indoor facilities. However, informal activities (e.g. Frisbee tossing) may be undertaken if the open space is suited to safe play and the play does not disturb the enjoyment of the open space by others.
4. Do not support the following activities on open spaces: vegetation removal (unless undertaken with the approval of the Summer Village), dumping of yard and other wastes, overnight camping, fires (including in designed containers), unruly and disruptive activities, hunting and commercial services. From time to time the Summer Village may add to this list.
5. Consider phasing the development of the two Community Green parks to include a series of trails and paths, benches, casual play areas (e.g. Frisbee, ball tossing), children playground apparatus and nature interpretation signage.
6. The Greenway Park in OS5 should be developed jointly with open space development on adjacent land to the east in Lacombe County.
7. Piers may require an annual license of occupation from the Summer Village.
8. Any staircase developed on and pier developed from community open space may be required to be removed or may be removed by the Summer Village if the Summer Village deems the staircase or pier to be a hazard to public safety.

12.0 TRAIL AND PATH SYSTEM

12.1 Background

There is a distinct trend in community planning to accommodate pedestrian and cycling pathways. Some of this is to alleviate the dependence on the automobile, but the push is also to promote exercise and healthier living. As presented in Section 10, the latter would be the reason for a pathway system within Birchcliff.

In Birchcliff there are people who walk and cycle. Where? On roads that are generally narrow, often have restricted sight lines and a multiplicity of driveways and lanes, most of which have restricted sight lines. As traffic increases and more people seek linear outdoor activities, the on-road use of pedestrians and cyclists likely will become a larger safety issue.

There are plans for a regional trail system to and around Sylvan Lake. When the trail or portions thereof are a reality, this likely will further increase pressure of pathways within Birchcliff that provide access to the regional trails.

12.2 Actions

The following are recommended actions for an integrated system of trails (being a paved facility) and paths (being a compacted facility):

1. Plan and develop a system of multi-purpose trails and paths that provide interconnected opportunities for low impact recreation opportunities. Wherever possible, the system should not include the use of roads and lanes that are developed for vehicle traffic.

2. Plan and develop, when applicable, trail connections to the future regional trail around Sylvan Lake.
3. Establish a capital plan for the sequential development of an integrated trail and path system.
4. Plan the form of trail or path through or into an open space area to be consistent with the purpose and environmental characteristics of that open space.
5. Design trails to accommodate activities such as walking, jogging, cycling, roller-blading and skateboarding, therefore being hard surfaced and of sufficient width for two-way traffic. Trail design shall promote the safety of users where possible, including passive policing.
6. Design and develop paths for only walking or jogging, thus being narrower and not hard-surfaced. Paths often are better suited for lower impact access into or through more sensitive open spaces.
7. Provide paths into or through natural areas only in accordance with other provisions in this plan for open spaces OS6 and OS15S; in other natural areas, a path should remain an 'unplanned' corridor, created either by wildlife or human activity, including children exploring.
8. Avoid locating trails and paths through highly sensitive features; where located in or adjacent to a sensitive feature their design (e.g. wetland boardwalk, steep bank staircase) should mitigate detrimental impacts that would otherwise occur.
9. Appropriately locate along trails and some paths direction signs, interpretation signs and rest stops (bench and waste receptacle).
10. Facilitate the ease of maintenance of trails, paths and associated amenities through design standards, which should also accommodate access by maintenance personnel, equipment and vehicles.
11. Do not permit motorized use of trails and pathways unless allowed by the Summer Village in special circumstances (note: this does not include motorized mobility aids for the physically handicapped).
12. Locate road crossings where sight distances provide for safe crossing (i.e. vehicle stopping distance); these should be clearly marked as crosswalks.
13. Where necessary, seek to secure land (e.g. purchase, easement, etc.) that would enhance the connectivity of an integrated trail and pathway system.
14. Use signage to clearly distinguish where access is not desired or permitted.
15. Liaise with other municipalities to coordinate the planning and development of trails and paths, and also with trail (or similar) associations for the patrolling and maintaining trails.

A potential trail and path system for Birchcliff is shown on Figure 6-1 Potential Trail/Path System.

13.0 OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT

13.1 Background

To maximize the benefits of open space to the community, the Summer Village needs to undertake actions to promote manage open spaces as outlined in the actions below. The implementation actions in Section 14.0, may also be considered as open space management.

13.2 Actions

The following are recommended open space management actions:

1. Commit finances annually to develop and maintain the open space system.

2. Prepare an open space brochure that shows community open spaces, the classification of open spaces and where and how public access and use is acceptable; this brochure should include the proposed trail system.
3. Encourage an "adopt-a-park" program whereby community residents would serve as 'neighbourhood park watchers' to increase safety and security awareness, as well monitor site use and abuses to features and amenities.
4. Review periodically the use and condition of each open space, including possible changes to the use, amenities and management of the site.
5. Prepare and adopt bylaws that may be necessary to empower the Summer Village (i.e. municipal staff and contract personnel) to manage community open space, including prohibited activities and tree/vegetation removal, and the enforcement thereof.

14.0 OPEN SPACE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

14.1 Background

A plan is only effective when implemented. The following series of actions would serve to protect and promote the open spaces in Birchcliff as an integrated system for the healthy enjoyment of the residents of, and visitors to, Birchcliff far into the future.

14.2 Actions

The following are recommended actions to implement the Open Space Plan:

1. Commit to maintain all environmental reserves, municipal reserves and park reserves as community open space.
2. Identify and undertake action to secure lands needed to meaningfully augment the desired open space system and to conserve features on lands having sensitive resources. Such actions may include, among others, purchase and access agreements.
3. Treat any community open space located along the shoreline of Sylvan Lake, regardless of its designation, as Environmental Reserve. Acceptable public access, or restriction thereof, to the shoreline should be identified in a concept plan for each open space.
4. Prepare concept plans for the open space lands where amenities are intended to be provided; these site plans should serve to facilitate the desired uses of the site and the location of amenities in ways that are appropriate to the features of the site.
5. Prepare a trail and path development plan, including standards and amenity locations.
6. Undertake a capital development program for the development of the trail and path system and open space site amenities, as well as the addition of any land to augment the system.
7. Commit to community (public) consultation regarding open space planning, amenity development, natural features conservation and park management.
8. Undertake communication with the community to promote the conservation of the 'natural' features in open spaces, the use of open space that respects the environment and the enjoyment of others, and awareness that all open space is public open space not open space for the private enjoyment of those nearby.
9. Implement a trail and path development and maintenance program.
10. Seek a sponsor or sponsors for trail/path maintenance (e.g. local energy company).
11. Collaborate with municipalities and stakeholders to develop an integrated trail around Sylvan Lake that connects to other regional and national trails.
12. Develop a signage plan that includes directional and educational components. Signs should conform to standards and designs established by Birchcliff. Important will be

- signage that signifies no access or restricted access, for vehicles or other means to or through certain open spaces.
13. Monitor the use of the open space system to evaluate the success of the system; indicators may include: amount of use (including inappropriate use and access) and amount of maintenance required.
 14. Encourage private land owners to conserve the attributes of their land, both natural and designed, especially where adjacent to the lake, main roads and community open space.
 15. Review the Open Space Plan every four years.
 16. Envision the future by considering land use and recreation activities changes, especially outdoor recreation, in and around Birchcliff, which may require additions to the open space system or changes to the appropriate uses and amenities within certain open spaces. Future influences for change include backland development approved over time by Lacombe County.
 17. Should Birchcliff annex lands in the future, statutory or outline plans for those lands should require the allocation of land for one or more classes of open spaces to complement the open spaces currently within the community. These open space lands shall be appropriately designated as municipal reserve or environmental reserve.

APPENDIX A
INVENTORY OF OPEN SPACE

BIRCHCLIFF OPEN SPACE INVENTORY				
	RA 1 - 4		RA 1 - 5	
Designation	Government road allowance (range road)		Government road allowance (range road)	
Area				
Lakefront/Backland	Lakefront		Lakefront	
Adjacent land uses	E – residential (much natural woodland) W - residential		E –church camp residential W - residential	
Access from	Range Road 1-4 Birchcliff Road (Twp Rd 39-2)		Ra nge Road 1-5 Birchcliff Road	
Access view lines	N - excellent E – good W - poor/fair		N – excellent E – poor/fair	
Site land use	Pathway to lakeshore Concrete barriers (stop vehicles)		Lane (gravel) access to lakeshore Drainage rip-rap on east side Lake edge – soil, muddy, rutted Dock (5 cribs) partially blocks lake access	
Vegetation (upland)	Poplar Some planted conifers		Some poplar along edges	
Vegetation (shore approach)	Poplar, some slumping at shoreline		Some poplar, grass at water edge	
Bank height	Not applicable (approach to lake altered)		Not applicable (approach to lake altered)	
Distinguishing features	Lake access Flat then good grade to lake Sloped portion – crushed rock Cannot see lake from start		Lake access Lake view from start	
Internal Path	North portion flat – bare soil Sloped south portion – crushed rock		Is a graveled (crushed rock) lane	
Use Potential	Road/lane	None	Road/lane	Winter
	Natural	Low	Natural	None
	Stormwater channel	Low	Stormwater channel	High
	Pathway(connector)	None	Pathway(connector)	None
	Pathway (local)	High	Pathway (local)	High
	Viewpoint/bench	Low	Viewpoint/bench	None
	Local rest area	None	Local rest area	None
	Community Green	None	Community Green	None
	Parking	None	Parking	None
	Dispose (sell)	None	Dispose (sell)	None
Open Space Class	Allowance Park		Allowance Park	

BIRCHCLIFF OPEN SPACE INVENTORY				
	OS1N		OS1S	
Designation	Municipal Reserve		Municipal Reserve	
Area				
Lakefront/Backland	Backland		Lakefront	
Adjacent land uses	S – Natural are open space W – residential E – road allowance		N – Greenway Park open space W – residential E – road allowance	
Access from	Range Road 1-4 (Twp Rd 39-2) Birchcliff Road		Range Road 1-4 (Twp Rd 39-2)	
Access view lines	N – good (from Birchcliff Rd) E – poor (from RR 1-4)		E – poor (from RR 1-4)	
Site land use	Wooded area Wastewater pump station site		Natural woodlands	
Vegetation (upland)	Poplar		Mixed (poplar, spruce)	
Vegetation (shore approach)	n/a		Mixed (poplar, spruce)	
Bank height	n/a		Estimated 15 – 20 ft	
Distinguishing features	Cleared area contains pump station		Access to lakeside bank Heavily wooded	
Internal Path	Cleared access lane		None evident	
Use Potential	Road/lane	None	Road/lane	None
	Natural	None	Natural	High
	Stormwater channel	None	Stormwater channel	None
	Pathway(connector)	None	Pathway(connector)	None
	Pathway (local)	High	Pathway (local)	None
	Viewpoint/bench	None	Viewpoint/bench	None
	Local rest area	None	Local rest area	None
	Community Green	None	Community Green	None
	Parking	None	Parking	None
	Dispose (sell)	None	Dispose (sell)	None
Open Space Class	Greenway Park		Natural Area	

BIRCHCLIFF OPEN SPACE INVENTORY				
	RA2		RA3	
Designation	Subdivision road allowance		Subdivision road allowance	
Area				
Lakefront/Backland	Lakefront		Lakefront	
Adjacent land uses	E – residential W – residential		E – residential W – residential	
Access from	Birchcliff Road		Birchcliff Road	
Access view lines	E – poor W – poor		E – poor W – good	
Site land use	Lane for parcel access (north portion) Natural (south portion)		Natural woodland	
Vegetation (upland)	Poplar and spruce		Poplar	
Vegetation (shore approach)	Poplar		Poplar, some conifers	
Bank height	Estimated 15 ft			
Distinguishing features	Access to lakeside bank Heavily wooded		Access to lakeside bank Natural woodland	
Internal Path	A graveled lane (north half)		None evident	
Use Potential	Road/lane	None	Road/lane	None
	Natural	High	Natural	High
	Stormwater channel	Moderate	Stormwater channel	None
	Pathway(connector)	None	Pathway(connector)	None
	Pathway (local)	High	Pathway (local)	High
	Viewpoint/bench	None	Viewpoint/bench	None
	Local rest area	None	Local rest area	None
	Community Green	None	Community Green	None
	Parking	None	Parking	None
	Dispose (sell) – south portion	Option	Dispose (sell)	Option
Open Space Class	Conservation Area Park		Conservation Area Park	

BIRCHCLIFF OPEN SPACE INVENTORY				
	OS2		OS3	
Designation	Municipal Reserve		Municipal Reserve	
Area				
Lakefront/Backland	Backland		Backland	
Adjacent land uses	N – residential S - Birchcliff Road		N – residential S - Birchcliff Road	
Access from	Birchcliff Lane Birchcliff Road		Birchcliff Road Birchcliff Lane	
Access view lines	E – excellent (across from #73) W - excellent (across from #73)		E – good W – good	
Site land use	Natural woodland		Natural woodland	
Vegetation (upland)	Poplar		Poplar woodland	
Vegetation (bank)	n/a		n/a	
Bank height	n/a		n/a	
Distinguishing features	Woodland Long and narrow, roadside buffer		Wooded Long, narrow roadside buffer	
Internal Path	None evident		None evident	
Use Potential	Road/lane	None	Road/lane	None
	Natural	Moderate	Natural	Moderate
	Stormwater channel	None	Stormwater channel	None
	Pathway(connector)	High	Pathway(connector)	High
	Pathway (local)	High	Pathway (local)	High
	Viewpoint/bench	None	Viewpoint/bench	None
	Local rest area	None	Local rest area	None
	Community Green	None	Community Green	None
	Parking	None	Parking	None
	Dispose (sell)	None	Dispose (sell)	None
Open Space Class	Greenway Park		Greenway Park	

BIRCHCLIFF OPEN SPACE INVENTORY		
	RA4	
Designation	Subdivision road allowance	
Area		
Lakefront/Backland	Lakefront	
Adjacent land uses	E – residential W – residential	
Access from	Birchcliff Road	
Access view lines	E – excellent W - good	
Site land use	Natural woodland Path and stairway to shore Dock – 2 cribs	
Vegetation (upland)	Poplar woodland	
Vegetation (bank)	Poplar, slumping at shoreline	
Bank height	Estimate 10 – 15 ft	
Distinguishing features	Access to lakeside bank Woodland	
Internal Path	Yes – rough – bare soil to stairs on bank	
Use Potential	Road/lane	None
	Natural	Moderate
	Stormwater channel	None
	Pathway(connector)	None
	Pathway (local)	High
	Viewpoint/bench	Moderate
	Local rest area	None
	Community Green	None
	Parking	None
	Dispose (sell)	None
Open Space Class	Viewpoint Park	

BIRCHCLIFF OPEN SPACE INVENTORY				
	OS4		OS5	
Designation	Reserve		Municipal Reserve	
Area				
Lakefront/Backland	Lakefront		Backland	
Adjacent land uses	E – residential W – residential		E – natural wooded farmland W – environmental reserve (natural)	
Access from	Birchcliff Road		Birchcliff Road	
Access view lines	E – very poor W – fair		E – good W – good	
Site land use	Natural woodland Drainage channel		Natural woodland	
Vegetation (upland)	Poplar woodland		Poplar woodland	
Vegetation (bank)	? ?		n/a	
Bank height	? ?		n/a	
Distinguishing features	Access to lakeside bank Wooded		Woodland Rolling to flat Steep bank to drainage course	
Internal Path	None evident		None evident	
Use Potential	Road/lane	None	Road/lane	None
	Natural	High	Natural	Moderate
	Stormwater channel	High	Stormwater channel	None
	Pathway(connector)	None	Pathway(connector)	High
	Pathway (local)	Moderate	Pathway (local)	High
	Viewpoint/bench	Moderate	Viewpoint/bench	None
	Local rest area	None	Local rest area	High
	Community Green	None	Community Green	High
	Parking	None	Parking	None
	Dispose (sell)	None	Dispose (sell)	None
Open Space Class	Natural Area		Community Green	

BIRCHCLIFF OPEN SPACE INVENTORY				
	OS6		OS7	
Designation	Environmental Reserve		Municipal Reserve	
Area				
Lakefront/Backland	Backland		Backland	
Adjacent land uses	E – Municipal Reserve (natural) W – Municipal Reserve (natural) N – residential		E – Environmental Reserve (natural) W and N – well site	
Access from	Birchcliff Road		Birchcliff Road	
Access view lines	E – good W – fair		E – poor W – poor	
Site land use	Natural woodland Drainage course		Natural woodland	
Vegetation (upland)	Poplar woodland		Poplar woodland	
Vegetation (bank)	n/a		n/a	
Bank height	n/a		n/a	
Distinguishing features	Varied topography Drainage course		Wooded Hill escarpment south and east side Undulating west side with a hollow	
Internal Path	None evident		None evident	
Use Potential	Road/lane	None	Road/lane	None
	Natural	High	Natural	Moderate
	Stormwater channel	High	Stormwater channel	None
	Pathway(connector)	High	Pathway(connector)	High
	Pathway (local)	High	Pathway (local)	High
	Viewpoint/bench	None	Viewpoint/bench	None
	Local rest area	None	Local rest area	Low
	Community Green	None	Community Green	None
	Parking	None	Parking	Low
	Dispose (sell)	None	Dispose (sell)	None
Open Space Class	Natural Area		Conservation Area Park	

BIRCHCLIFF OPEN SPACE INVENTORY				
	OS8E		OS8W	
Designation	Park (Reserve)		Park (Reserve)	
Area				
Lakefront/Backland	Lakefront		Lakefront	
Adjacent land uses	E – residential W – Viewpoint park open space		E – Natural area open space W – residential (church camp)	
Access from	Birchcliff Road		Birchcliff Road	
Access view lines			N – excellent E – good W – good	
Site land use	Natural woodland with path Drainage channel (storm)		Natural woodland with path Boat dock (2 cribs)	
Vegetation (upland)	Poplar woodland		Poplar woodland	
Vegetation (bank)	Poplar		Poplar	
Bank height	Estimate 20 – 30 ft		Estimate 20 – 30 ft	
Distinguishing features	Woodland Drainage channel (near west boundary) and incised near shore		Access to lakeside bank Woodland	
Internal Path	Very rough path,		Rough path, divides into 2 to shore Steep open path to shore	
Use Potential	Road/lane	None	Road/lane	None
	Natural	High	Natural	High
	Stormwater channel	High	Stormwater channel	None
	Pathway(connector)	None	Pathway(connector)	None
	Pathway (local)	High	Pathway (local)	High
	Viewpoint/bench	Low	Viewpoint/bench	High
	Local rest area	None	Local rest area	None
	Community Green	None	Community Green	None
	Parking	None	Parking	None
	Dispose (sell)	None	Dispose (sell)	None
Open Space Class	Natural Area		Viewpoint Park	

BIRCHCLIFF OPEN SPACE INVENTORY				
	OS9		OS10	
Designation	Municipal Reserve		Environmental Reserve	
Area				
Lakefront/Backland	Backland		Backland	
Adjacent land uses	E – Environmental Reserve N – residential W – Birch Way		S – residential W – residential E – Birch Close	
Access from	Birch Way		Birch Close Birchcliff Road	
Access view lines	N – good S – good		Very poor from Birchcliff Rd Excellent from Birch Close	
Site land use	Grassland		Natural woodland Drainage course	
Vegetation (upland)	Grassland		Poplar woodland Mowed grass – north near Birch Close	
Vegetation (bank)	n/a		n/a	
Bank height	n/a		n/a	
Distinguishing features	Very small Grass (natural)		Long, narrow, winding Wooded	
Internal Path	None evident		None evident	
Use Potential	Road/lane	None	Road/lane	None
	Natural	None	Natural	High
	Stormwater channel	None	Stormwater channel	High
	Pathway(connector)	Low	Pathway(connector)	Moderate
	Pathway (local)	Low	Pathway (local)	Low
	Viewpoint/bench	None	Viewpoint/bench	None
	Local rest area	None	Local rest area	None
	Community Green	None	Community Green	None
	Parking	None	Parking	None
	Dispose (sell)	None	Dispose (sell)	None
Open Space Class	Greenway Park		Natural Area	

BIRCHCLIFF OPEN SPACE INVENTORY				
	OS11		OS12	
Designation	Municipal Reserve		Municipal Reserve	
Area				
Lakefront/Backland	Backland		Backland	
Adjacent land uses	E – road and Municipal Reserve W - residential		E – road and residential W – Municipal Reserve	
Access from	Birch Close		Birch Close	
Access view lines	Excellent		Excellent	
Site land use	Mowed grass drainage swale		Mowed grass open space	
Vegetation (upland)	Grass		Grass	
Vegetation (bank)	n/a		n/a	
Bank height	n/a		n/a	
Distinguishing features	Long, narrow drainage swale		Undulating grassland	
Internal Path	None evident		None evident	
Use Potential	Road/lane	None	Road/lane	None
	Natural	None	Natural	None
	Stormwater channel	High	Stormwater channel	None
	Pathway(connector)	Low	Pathway(connector)	None
	Pathway (local)	Moderate	Pathway (local)	Moderate
	Viewpoint/bench	None	Viewpoint/bench	None
	Local rest area	None	Local rest area	Moderate
	Community Green	None	Community Green	None
	Parking	None	Parking	None
	Dispose (sell)	None	Dispose (sell)	None
Open Space Class	Greenway Park		Greenway Park	

BIRCHCLIFF OPEN SPACE INVENTORY				
	OS13		OS14	
Designation	Municipal Reserve		Municipal Reserve	
Area				
Lakefront/Backland	Backland		Backland	
Adjacent land uses	E – Environmental Reserve N – residential S – residential		N – wooded farmland S – Birch Way road	
Access from	Birch Way		Birch Way	
Access view lines	S – excellent N – fair/good		Generally excellent but not applicable	
Site land use	Grassland Path connector/legal access		Natural woodland – buffer	
Vegetation (upland)	Grassland		Poplar woodland (if north of fence) Grass if south of fence	
Vegetation (bank)	n/a		n/a	
Bank height	n/a		n/a	
Distinguishing features	Sloping grassed area		Roadside buffer strip	
Internal Path	None evident		None evident	
Use Potential	Road/lane	None	Road/lane	None
	Natural	None	Natural	Low
	Stormwater channel	None	Stormwater channel	None
	Pathway(connector)	Low	Pathway(connector)	Moderate
	Pathway (local)	High	Pathway (local)	Moderate
	Viewpoint/bench	None	Viewpoint/bench	None
	Local rest area	Moderate	Local rest area (east end)	Moderate
	Community Green	None	Community Green	None
	Parking	None	Parking	None
	Dispose (sell)	None	Dispose (sell)	None
Open Space Class	Greenway Park		Greenway Park	

BIRCHCLIFF OPEN SPACE INVENTORY				
	OS15S		OS15N	
Designation	Reserve		Reserve	
Area				
Lakefront/Backland	Lakefront		Backland	
Adjacent land uses	N – natural woodland S – residential and lake W – residential		S – natural woodland W and E – residential	
Access from	RR 15		Birchcliff Road and RR 15	
Access view lines	n/a		From east side: S – excellent N – excellent From north side: E - fair/poor W – excellent	
Site land use	Natural woodland Path east-west (control entrance east) Path - southerly loop Observation water wells		Natural woodland Path Drainage channel	
Vegetation (upland)	Poplar woodland Some spruce near lake bank		Poplar woodland	
Vegetation (bank)	Poplar trees; some spruce Marsh along shore		n/a	
Bank height	Estimate 8 – 10 ft		n/a	
Distinguishing features	Wooded Marsh along shore/bottomlands Lakefront		Wooded Open areas west side	
Internal Path	South Loop – informal Path to lakefront on west side		Main: East-west – informal – partly North Loop - informal	
Use Potential	Road/lane	None	Road/lane	None
	Natural – Marsh area	High	Natural – upland	Moderate
	Stormwater channel	Yes	Stormwater channel	Yes
	Pathway(connector)	See OS15N	Pathway(connector)	High
	Pathway (local)	High	Pathway (local)	High
	Viewpoint/bench	High	Viewpoint/bench	None
	Local rest area	Low	Local rest area	High
	Community Green	High	Community Green	Low
	Parking	None	Parking	High
	Dispose (sell)	None	Dispose (sell)	None
Open Space Class	Natural Area		Community Green	

BIRCHCLIFF OPEN SPACE INVENTORY				
	RA6		RA7	
Designation/Purpose	Subdivision road allowance		Subdivision road allowance	
Area				
Lakefront/Backland	Lakefront		Lakefront	
Adjacent land uses	E – residential W residential		E - residential W – residential	
Access from	Birchcliff Road		Birchcliff Road	
Access view lines	E – excellent W - excellent		E – fair/good W – good	
Site land use	Natural woodland		Road – northern two-thirds Natural woodland remainder to lake	
Vegetation (upland)	Poplar		Poplar	
Vegetation (bank)			Poplar and Spruce	
Bank height			Estimate 40 – 50 ft	
Distinguishing features	Woodland Drainage swale on west side		Has lakefront Paved road access	
Internal Path	None evident		None evident	
Use Potential	Road/lane – north part	None	None	
	Natural	Moderate	High	
	Stormwater channel	None	None	
	Pathway(connector)	None	None	
	Pathway (local)	Moderate	Low	
	Viewpoint/bench	Moderate	None	
	Local rest area	None	None	
	Community Green	None	None	
	Parking	None	None	
	Dispose (sell)	None	None	
Open Space Class	Viewpoint Park		Conservation Area Park	

BIRCHCLIFF OPEN SPACE INVENTORY				
	OS16		OS17	
Designation	Reserve (upland open space)		Reserve	
Area				
Lakefront/Backland	Backland adjacent to bank		Lakefront	
Adjacent land uses	W, N and E – residences S – lakeside bank		Cottages	
Access from	Birchcliff Road		Birchcliff Road	
Access view lines	E – fair W – fair		E – excellent W – excellent	
Site land use	Natural woodland		Steep bank	
Vegetation (upland)	Poplar woodland		n/a	
Vegetation (bank)	n/a		Poplar and Spruce	
Bank height	n/a		Estimate 40 – 50 ft	
Distinguishing features	Woodland		Steep bank	
Internal Path	None evident		n/a	
Use Potential	Road/lane	None	None	
	Natural	Moderate	High	
	Stormwater channel	None	None	
	Pathway(connector)	None	None	
	Pathway (local)	Moderate	None	
	Viewpoint/bench	High	None	
	Local rest area	None	None	
	Community Green	None	None	
	Parking	None	None	
	Dispose (sell)	None	None	
Open Space Class	Viewpoint Park		Natural Area	

BIRCHCLIFF OPEN SPACE INVENTORY				
	OS18		OS19	
Designation	Reserve		Reserve	
Area				
Lakefront/Backland	Lakefront		Backland adjacent to bank	
Adjacent land uses	Cottages		E, N and W - Residential S – lakeside bank	
Access from	Birchcliff Road/Westview Close		Birchcliff Road/Westview Close	
Access view lines	E – excellent W - excellent		E – excellent W - excellent	
Site land use	Steep bank Staircase to lake Boat dock – 1 crib		Natural woodland Paths Picnic table in open space	
Vegetation (upland)	n/a		Poplar	
Vegetation (bank)	Poplar and Spruce		Poplar and Spruce	
Bank height	Estimate 40 – 50 ft		n/a	
Distinguishing features	Steep bank		Woodland, grassed open area	
Internal Path	Staircase		Yes – from west – well used Two from residences- join 'main' path	
Use Potential	Road/lane	None	Road/lane	None
	Natural	High	Natural	Moderate
	Stormwater channel	None	Stormwater channel	None
	Pathway(connector)	None	Pathway(connector)	None
	Pathway (local)	None	Pathway (local)	High
	Viewpoint/bench	None	Viewpoint/bench	High
	Local rest area	None	Local rest area	None
	Community Green	None	Community Green	None
	Parking	None	Parking	None
	Dispose (sell)	None	Dispose (sell)	
Open Space Class	Natural Area		Viewpoint Park	

BIRCHCLIFF OPEN SPACE INVENTORY				
	OS20		OS21	
Designation	Reserve		Reserve	
Area				
Lakefront/Backland	Lakefront		Backland	
Adjacent land uses	N – cottages		Residential	
Access from	Birchcliff Road/Westview Close		Westview Close/Munnemaker Close	
Access view lines	n/a		Fair	
Site land use	Steep bank		Woodland	
Vegetation (upland)	n/a		Poplar	
Vegetation (bank)	Poplar/Spruce		n/a	
Bank height	50 feet ??		n/a	
Distinguishing features	Steep bank		Long, very narrow strip	
Internal Path	n/a		None evident	
Use Potential	Road/lane	None	Road/lane	None
	Natural	High	Natural	Moderate
	Stormwater channel	None	Stormwater channel	None
	Pathway(connector)	None	Pathway(connector)	None
	Pathway (local)	None	Pathway (local)	High
	Viewpoint/bench	None	Viewpoint/bench	None
	Local rest area	None	Local rest area	None
	Community Green	None	Community Green	None
	Parking	None	Parking	None
	Dispose (sell)	None	Dispose (sell)	None
Open Space Class	Natural Area		Greenway Park	

BIRCHCLIFF OPEN SPACE INVENTORY				
	OS22		OS23	
Designation	Municipal Reserve		Municipal Reserve	
Area				
Lakefront/Backland	Backland		Backland	
Adjacent land uses	W – Church Camp E – Birch Way		W – Church Camp E – Birch Way	
Access from	Birch Way		Birch Way	
Access view lines	Good		Good	
Site land use	Woodland		Woodland	
Vegetation (upland)	Poplar		Poplar	
Vegetation (bank)	n/a		n/a	
Bank height	n/a		n/a	
Distinguishing features	Long, very narrow roadside buffer strip		Long, very narrow roadside buffer strip	
Internal Path	None evident		None evident	
Use Potential	Road/lane	None	Road/lane	None
	Natural	Low	Natural	Low
	Stormwater channel	None	Stormwater channel	None
	Pathway(connector)	Moderate	Pathway(connector)	Moderate
	Pathway (local)	Low	Pathway (local)	Low
	Viewpoint/bench	None	Viewpoint/bench	None
	Local rest area	None	Local rest area	None
	Community Green	None	Community Green	None
	Parking	None	Parking	None
	Dispose (sell)	None	Dispose (sell)	None
Open Space Class	Greenway Park		Greenway Park	

BIRCHCLIFF OPEN SPACE INVENTORY				
	OS24		RA8	
Designation	Municipal Reserve		Subdivision road allowance	
Area				
Lakefront/Backland	Backland		Backland	
Adjacent land uses	N – residential S – Birchcliff Road		W and S – residential lots N and E – farmland and natural woodland	
Access from	Birchcliff Road		Birchcliff Road	
Access view lines	Good		East access – poor in both directions West access – fair in both directions	
Site land use	Woodland		Woodland	
Vegetation (upland)	Poplar		Poplar	
Vegetation (bank)	n/a		n/a	
Bank height	n/a		n/a	
Distinguishing features	Long, very narrow roadside buffer strip		Very narrow and long	
Internal Path	None evident		None evident	
Use Potential	Road/lane	None	Road/lane	Moderate
	Natural	Low	Natural	Low
	Stormwater channel	None	Stormwater channel	None
	Pathway(connector)	Moderate	Pathway(connector)	High
	Pathway (local)	Moderate	Pathway (local)	Low
	Viewpoint/bench	None	Viewpoint/bench	None
	Local rest area	None	Local rest area	None
	Community Green	None	Community Green	None
	Parking	None	Parking	None
	Dispose (sell)	None	Dispose (sell)	None
Open Space Class	Greenway Park		Greenway Park	

REFERENCES

2013 Municipal Development Plan (Summer Village of Birchcliff, 2013)

Highland Park (Lovatt Planning Consultants Inc./ISL 2009; updated Cu-Consulting Ltd. 2012) Lakewatch 2010 Sylvan Lake Report (Alberta Government, 2010)

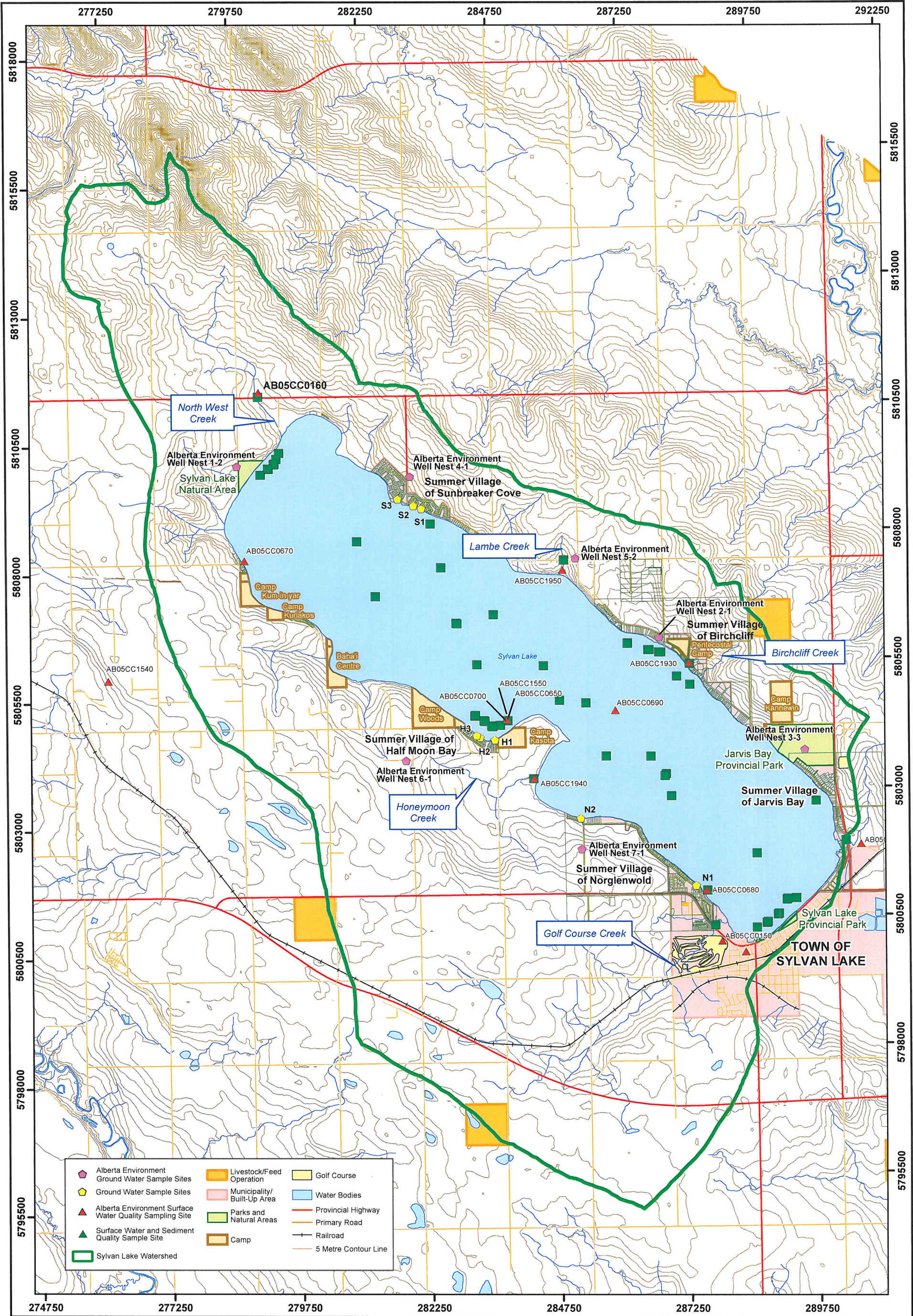
Sylvan Lake Public Access Study Background Report
(ISL, 2002) Sylvan Lake Area Structure Plan) Lacombe
County, 2010)

Sylvan Lake Management Plan: 2000 Update (all municipalities around Sylvan
Lake, 2000) Sylvan Lake Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (Lacombe
County, 2012)

Sylvan Lake Public Access Study Findings and Recommendations (ISL, 2005)

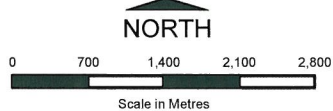
Sylvan Lake Water Quality Assessment and Watershed Management
Considerations (AXVS Environmental Consulting Ltd. 2005)

The Slopes (Longview Planning and Design/MPE Engineering, 2011)



SYLVAN LAKE WATER QUALITY STUDY

Sylvan Lake Watershed and Surrounding Area



Acknowledgements:
Original Drawing by AXYS Environmental
Consulting Ltd.

PREPARED BY



Environmental
Consulting Ltd.

DRAFT DATE 25/01/2005

SCALE 1:70,000

REVISION DATE 27/06/2005

PROJECT FIGURE NO
POGOS 1233

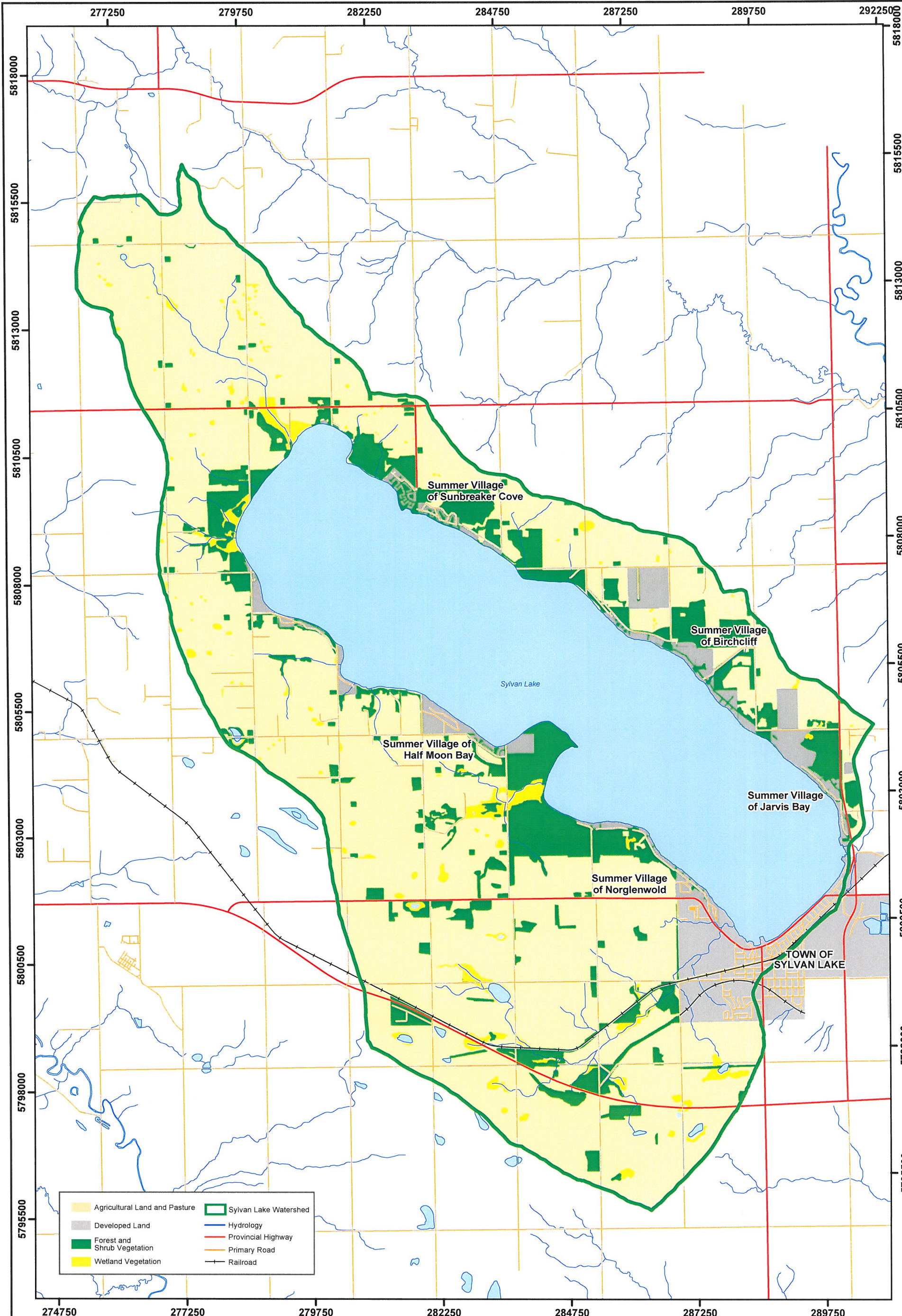
DRAWN CS

CHECKED DC

APPROVED DB

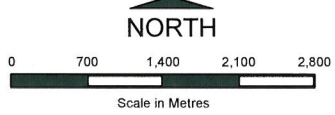
VOL

1-1




- Agricultural Land and Pasture
- Developed Land
- Forest and Shrub Vegetation
- Wetland Vegetation
- Sylvan Lake Watershed
- Hydrology
- Provincial Highway
- Primary Road
- Railroad

Land Cover Classes within the Sylvan Lake Watershed



Acknowledgements:
Original Drawing by AXYS Environmental Consulting Ltd.

PREPARED BY		 AXYS Environmental Consulting Ltd.	
DRAFT DATE	25/01/2005	SCALE	1:70,000
REVISION DATE	27/06/2005	PROJECT	POGDS 1280
DRAWN	CS	CHECKED	DC
		APPROVED	DB
			FIGURE NO
			2-1



SUMMER VILLAGE OF BIRCHCLIFF
Open Space Plan
Figure 3-1
Aerial Photograph

SYLVAN
LAKE



SUMMER VILLAGE OF BIRCHCLIFF Open Space Plan Figure 4-1 Community Open Space Lands

- Environmental Reserve
- Municipal Reserve
- Park/Reserve
- Subdivision Road/Lane
- Range Road
- Municipal Boundary
- ▨ Key Fisheries (Aquatic) Habitat

NTS
MAY 2013



SUMMER VILLAGE OF BIRCHCLIFF

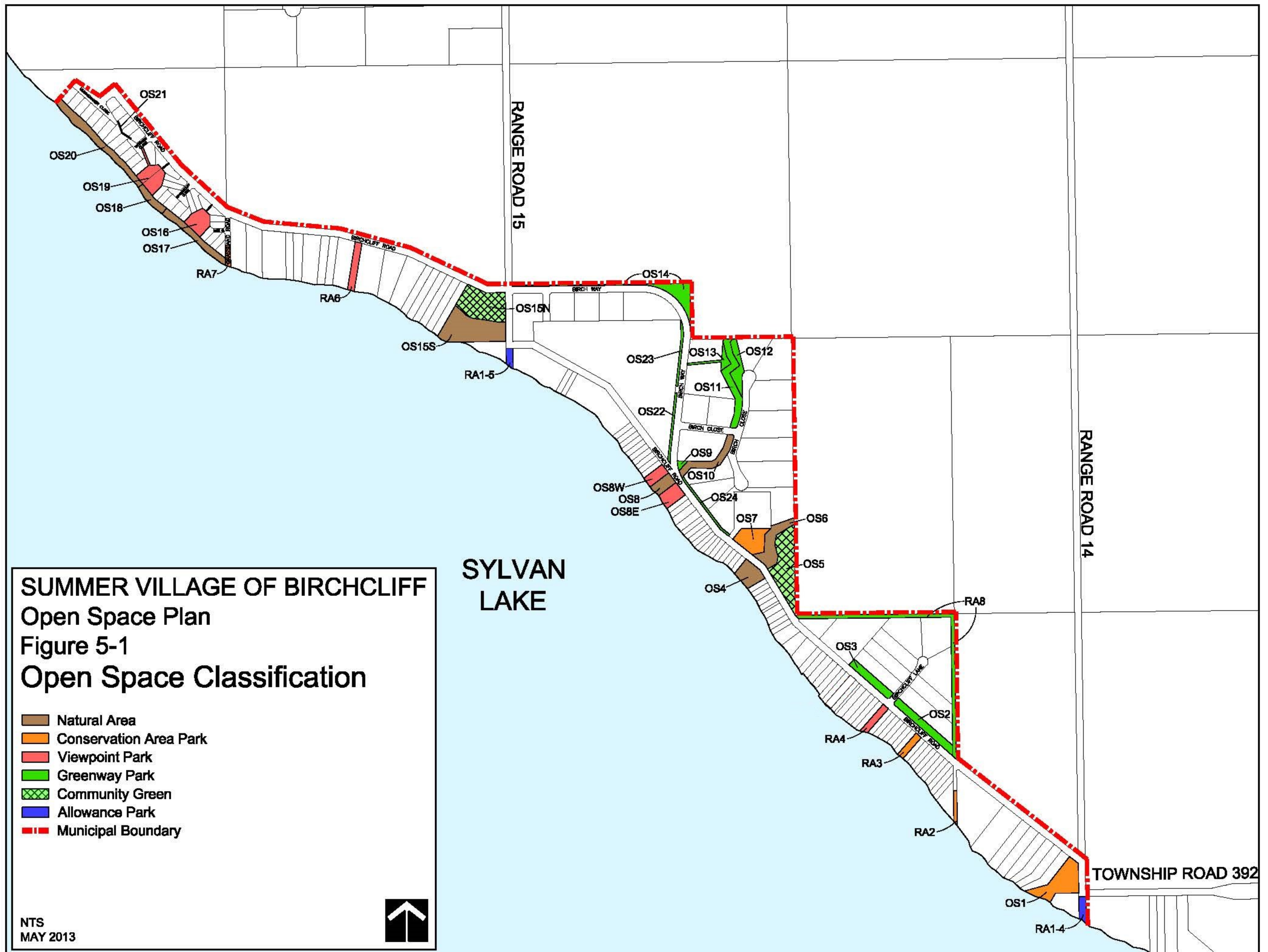
Open Space Plan

Figure 5-1

Open Space Classification

-  Natural Area
-  Conservation Area Park
-  Viewpoint Park
-  Greenway Park
-  Community Green
-  Allowance Park
-  Municipal Boundary

NTS
MAY 2013



SUMMER VILLAGE OF BIRCHCLIFF
Open Space Plan
Figure 6-1
Potential Trail/Path System

- Open Space Lands**

 - Paved Trail
 - Compacted Path
 - Viewpoint

Possible Future Easements

 - Paved Trail
 - Compacted Path

Lacombe County

 - Paved Trail

Sunnyside Church Camp

 - Paved Trail
 - Compacted Path

Municipal Boundary

NTS
MARCH 2014