



Regional District of Central Kootenay  
CRESTON VALLEY SERVICES COMMITTEE  
Open Meeting Addenda

**Date:** Thursday, July 2, 2026  
**Time:** 9:00 am  
**Location:** Creston and District Community Complex - Erickson Room  
312 19 Avenue North, Creston, BC

Directors will have the opportunity to participate in the meeting electronically. Proceedings are open to the public.

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Pages

**1. ZOOM REMOTE MEETING INFO**

To promote openness, transparency and provide accessibility to the public we provide the ability to attend all RDCK meetings in-person or remote (hybrid model).

**Meeting Time:**

9:00 a.m. PT

**Join by Video:**

<https://rdck-bc-ca.zoom.us/j/92632670829?pwd=VkcPYOv0WnMTDNowScaJt12nFYz8zN.1>

**Join by Phone:**

+1 778 907 2071 Canada Toll Free

\*6 to unmute or mute

\*9 to raise or lower your hand

**Meeting ID:** 926 3267 0829

**Meeting Password:** 430277

**In-Person Location:** Creston & District Community Complex  
312 19 Ave N, Creston, BC

**2. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair DeBoon called the meeting to order at [Time] a.m.

**3. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

We acknowledge and respect the Indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

**4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The agenda for the July 2, 2026 Creston Valley Services Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

**5. RECEIPT OF MINUTES**

The May 28, 2026 Creston Valley Services Committee minutes, have been received.

5 - 11

**6. DELEGATE**

**6.1 DELEGATION: WEST CRESTON COMMUNITY HALL SOCIETY - FIRE HALL PROJECT TEAM**

The Fire Hall project team will present a request for support and update re: West Creston Community Hall Society Fire Hall.

**6.2 DELEGATION: KOOTENAY HOLDS CLIMBING AND WELLNESS SOCIETY**

Kootenay Holds Climbing and Wellness Society to present a request for Community Development Grant to establish a recreational facility.

12 - 30

**NOTE: PowerPoint presentation included in the addenda.**

**7. DIRECTOR REPORTS**

**7.1 FOR INFORMATION: CRESTON VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Director Vandenberghe added this item for information to the agenda.

31 - 32

**7.2 FOR INFORMATION: REGIONAL PARKS, TRAILS AND WATER ACCESS STRATEGY**

Director Vandenberghe added this item for information to the agenda.

33

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**8.1 DISCUSSION ITEM: CRESTON & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COMPLEX PARKING LOT SAFETY MEASURES**

Chair DeBoon requested to add this item to the agenda.

**8.2 DISCUSSION ITEM: CENTENNIAL PARK FIELD UPGRADE OPERATIONAL MAINTENANCE**

34 - 35

The letter dated May 26, 2026 from Arnold DeBoon, Town of Creston, request that the RDCK consider including the Centennial Park Baseball Field within Recreation Facility-Creston and Areas B, C and Area A Service S224.

**8.3 DISCUSSION ITEM: LISTER COMMUNITY CEMETERY**

Director Tierney requested that this discussion item be added to the agenda.

**8.4 DISCUSSION ITEM: CRESTON SELECT CEMETARY STATUS AND PROCEDURE**

Director Vandenberghe requested an update and discussion on this item.

**8.5 DISCUSSION ITEM: CRESTON VALLEY AIRPORT AUTHORITY GRANT STATUS**

Director Vandenberghe requested an update and discussion on this item, specifically the runway and backup generator.

**8.6 DISCUSSION ITEM: CRESTON VALLEY FIRE SELECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Director Vandenberghe requested an update and discussion on this item.

**9. OLD BUSINESS**

**9.1 GOAT RIVER WATERSHED WATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN**

36 - 47

Reoccurring item on the agenda.

**NOTE: Attachments included in the addenda.**

**9.2 DISCUSSION ITEM: RCMP STAFFING LEVEL INCLUDING SCHOOL RESOURCE FUNDING**

Director Vandenberghe requested an update and discussion on this item.

**9.3 DISCUSSION ITEM: ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN (EAP) REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL & EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

Director Vandenberghe requested an update and discussion on this item.

**9.4 ACTION ITEM LIST**

48

**10. PUBLIC TIME**

The Chair will call for questions from the public and members of the media at 11:45 a.m.

**11. CLOSED**

**11.1 Meeting Closed to the Public**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

In the opinion of the Committee - and, in accordance with Section 90 of the Community Charter – the public interest so requires that persons other than DIRECTORS, ALTERNATE DIRECTORS, DELEGATIONS AND STAFF be excluded from the meeting;

AND FURTHER, in accordance with Section 90 of the Community Charter, the meeting is to be closed on the basis(es) identified in the following Subsections:

90. (1) A part of a council meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:

(e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality;

(k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public;

## 11.2 Recess of Open Meeting

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Open meeting be recessed at [Time] in order to conduct the Closed meeting.

## 12. NEXT MEETING

The next Creston Valley Services Committee meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

## 13. ADJOURNMENT

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Creston Valley Services Committee meeting be adjourned at [Time].



## Regional District of Central Kootenay CRESTON VALLEY SERVICES COMMITTEE Open Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 28, 2026

9:00 am PT

Creston and District Complex – Erickson Room  
312 19 Avenue North, Creston, BC

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS' PRESENT

Director A. DeBoon	Town of Creston
Director G. Jackman	Electoral Area A
Director R. Tierney	Electoral Area B
Director K. Vandenberghe	Electoral Area C

### STAFF PRESENT

U. Wolf	General Manager of Environmental Services
T. Davison	General Manager of Community Services
C. Stanley	Regional Manager – Operations & Asset Management
K. Calder	Regional Manager – Recreation & Client Services
A. Wilson	Acting General Manager of Development & Community Sustainability
M. Crowe	Parks Planner
C. LeBlanc	Community Resilience Coordinator
P. Marshall-Smith	Sustainability and Resilience Supervisor
C. Gainham	Utility Manager
N. Hannon	Disaster Mitigation & Adaptation Senior Advisor
R. Baril	Meeting Coordinator

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### 1. ZOOM REMOTE MEETING INFO

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\*9 to raise or lower your hand

**Meeting ID:** 926 3267 0829

**Meeting Password:** 430277

**In-Person Location:** 312 19 Avenue North, Creston, BC

**2. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair DeBoon called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**3. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

We acknowledge and respect the Indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

**FREEDOM OF THE FLOOR**

Moved and seconded,  
And resolved:

That Freedom of the Floor be granted to Councillor Dumas and Director Watson.

**Carried**

**4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Moved and seconded,  
And resolved:

The agenda for the May 28, 2026 Creston Valley Services Committee meeting be adopted as circulated with the addition of Item 9.4 Service S240 Creston Valley Airport Financial Plan Amendment referred from May 7, 2026 CVSC meeting and the removal of Item 8.4 Creston Valley Regional Airport Contribution Agreement Update.

**Carried**

**5. RECEIPT OF MINUTES**

The May 7, 2026 Creston Valley Services Committee minutes, have been received.

## 6. DELEGATE

### 6.1 DELEGATION: CRESTON DEN SOCIETY

Karen Shannon, Treasurer and other members of the Creston Den Society (CDS) presented the work that they have been doing in Creston.

The request of the CDS today is for further advocacy to the province. The CDS thanks the RDCK for supporting and increasing awareness to raise further funding for the homeless in Creston with province. The CDS feels that there is a missing gap for the general population over the age of 25 for those who suffer from substance abuse. The CDS's endeavor is to reduce the stigma over the homelessness and mental illness.

### 6.2 DELEGATION: CRESTON VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Jessica Piccinnan and Natasha Huscroft presented a request for a Community Development Grant. The need for a community co-working space in the community was identified over 10 years ago.

Creston Business Centre is merging with the new 301 Suite Coworking space. The floor space design has been developed over the last six (6) months and is on track to open on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## 7. DIRECTOR REPORTS

### 7.1 FOR INFORMATION: CRESTON VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

Creston Valley Public Library Annual General Meeting Report received for information for May 19, 2026 from Director Vandenberghe.

### 7.2 FOR INFORMATION: CRESTON VALLEY TOURISM SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

Creston Valley Tourism Society Annual General Meeting Report received for information for April 23, 2026 from Director Vandenberghe.

### 7.3 FOR INFORMATION: RCMP CRESTON DETACHMENT QUARTERLY UPDATE

RCMP Creston Detachment Quarterly Update received for information for May 12, 2026 from Director Vandenberghe.

### 7.4 FOR INFORMATION: CRESTON COMMUNITY FOREST

Creston Community Forest received for information for April 20, 2026 from Director Vandenberghe.

### 7.5 FOR INFORMATION: KOOTENAY FOOD COUNCIL AGM

Kootenay Food Council AGM received for information for May 21, 2026 from Director Vandenberghe.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

**8.1 DISCUSSION ITEM: CRESTON VALLEY FIRESMART RESILIENCY COMMITTEE ~~ç~~uku kqazın WORKING GROUP**

As per the report, this group has been active for several years through funding in part by RDCK through the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Fire Smart Grant. The Committee is closely tied to BC wildfire as a member at the table of the Creston Valley Firesmart Yaçan Nukiy. Purpose of this community is to bring funding and partners together.

**8.2 FOR INFORMATION: KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY FARMS ADVISORS 2026 WORKPLAN**

Kootenay & Boundary Farms Advisors 2026 Workplan received for information for April 2026 from Director Vandenberghe.

**8.3 FOR INFORMATION: PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT PROGRAM UPDATE**

Physician Recruitment Program Update received for information for May 19, 2026 from CAO Horn.

**8.4 DISCUSSION ITEM: CRESTON VALLEY REGIONAL AIRPORT CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT UPDATE**

Item removed.

**8.5 DISCUSSION ITEM: MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY ENGAGEMENT AND RCMP STAFFING UPDATE**

Ministry of Public Safety Engagement and RCMP Staffing Update received for information for May 19, 2026 from CAO Horn.

**9. OLD BUSINESS**

**9.1 DISCUSSION ITEM: CRESTON VALLEY ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLY**

Staff provided an overview of summary of work done to date, specifically:

- Arrowcreek water treatment plant
- Next steps for the Creston Valley Alternate Water Supply Initiative

Agriculture and Irrigation needs have been identified within the study. The completed modeling has shown an increasing water demand, especially for producers in Erickson. The Committee feels that the impacts on a drought impacted system are vitally important and all facets haven't been recognized yet.

Moved and seconded,

And resolved that it be recommended to the Board:

That the Board direct staff to develop a proposed next stage workplan associated with the Creston Valley Alternative Water Supply initiative, including:

- comparative business-case analysis,
- refinement of demand and infrastructure assumptions,

- governance and service delivery considerations,
- integration with watershed sustainability and drought adaptation initiatives,
- and exploration of funding opportunities

and that staff report back with proposed scope, budget, and implementation considerations.

**Carried**

**9.2 GOAT RIVER WATERSHED WATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN**

Important milestones are being met this month, including isotopic work.

Opportunities that exist in June 2026 to discuss the Goat River Watershed Water Sustainability Plan as an open working group is an important step to lead the future direction of this plan.

**ORDER OF AGENDA CHANGED** The Order of Business was changed to address the additional Item 9.4 Service S240 Creston Valley, with Item 9.4 considered at this time.

**9.4 SERVICE S240 CRESTON VALLEY AIRPORT FINANCIAL PLAN AMENDMENT**

Director Jackman requests the following motion:

Moved and seconded,  
And Resolved:

That the Board direct staff to amend the 2026-2030 Financial Plan for Service S240 Airport – Town of Creston, Areas B, C, Defined A to reduce Account Grants Expense and increase Account Contribution to Reserve by the following for each year – \$45,876 (2026), \$48,995 (2027), \$52,327 (2028), \$55,885 (2029) and \$59,685 (2030), AND FURTHER, that a new reserve be set up in Service S240 to retain those funds and that any expenditures from that reserve require Creston Valley Services Committee approval and a recommendation to the Board.

**Defeated**

**ORDER OF AGENDA RESUMED** Item 9.3 Action Item List was considered at this time.

**9.3 ACTION ITEM LIST**

No further discussion on the Action Item List.

**10. PUBLIC TIME**

The Chair called for questions from the public and members of the media at 11:45 a.m.

Students from Kootenay River Secondary School presented a petition to replace the sand on the Beach Volleyball Courts at Creston & District Community Complex. 93 signatures were collected in support of replacing the current sand on the beach volleyball court with proper volleyball grade sand.

The existing sand is coarse, abrasive and unsuitable for safe play. Replacing the sand would improve safety, increase participation, create a better recreational facility for students and community.

## **11. CLOSED**

### **11.1 Meeting Closed to the Public**

Moved and seconded,  
And resolved:

In the opinion of the Board - and, in accordance with Section 90 of the Community Charter – the public interest so requires that persons other than DIRECTORS, ALTERNATE DIRECTORS, DELEGATIONS AND STAFF be excluded from the meeting;

AND FURTHER, in accordance with Section 90 of the Community Charter, the meeting is to be closed on the basis(es) identified in the following Subsections:

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(e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality;

**Carried**

### **11.2 Recess of Open Meeting**

Moved and seconded,  
And resolved:

The Open meeting be recessed at 11:50 a.m. in order to conduct the Closed meeting.

**Carried**

## **12. NEXT MEETING**

The next Creston Valley Services Committee meeting is scheduled for July 2, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

## **13. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved and seconded,  
And resolved:

The Creston Valley Services Committee meeting be adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

**Carried**

Digitally approved by

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Arnold DeBoon, Chair

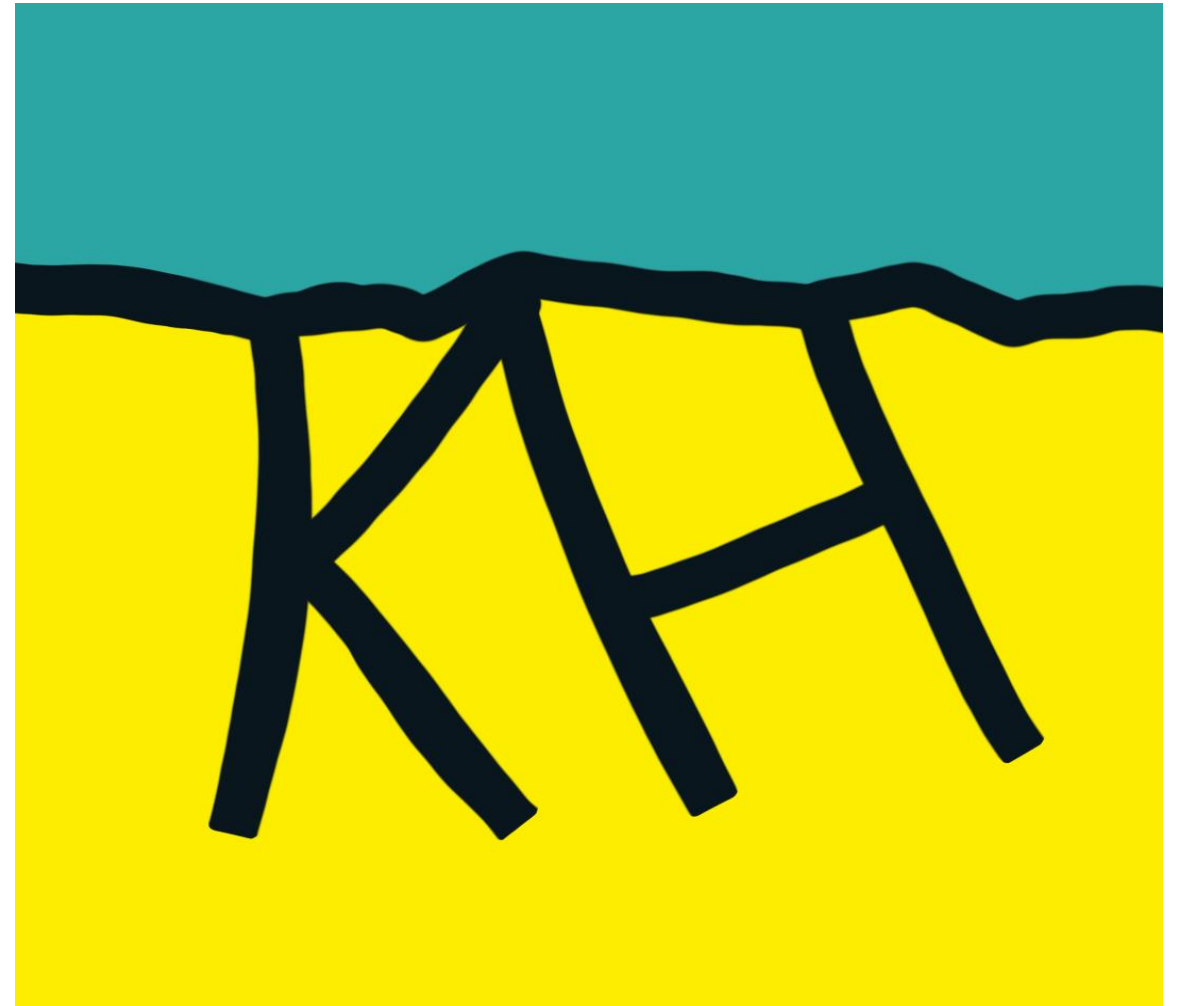
# Kootenay Holds

## Climbing and Wellness Society

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**Mission:**

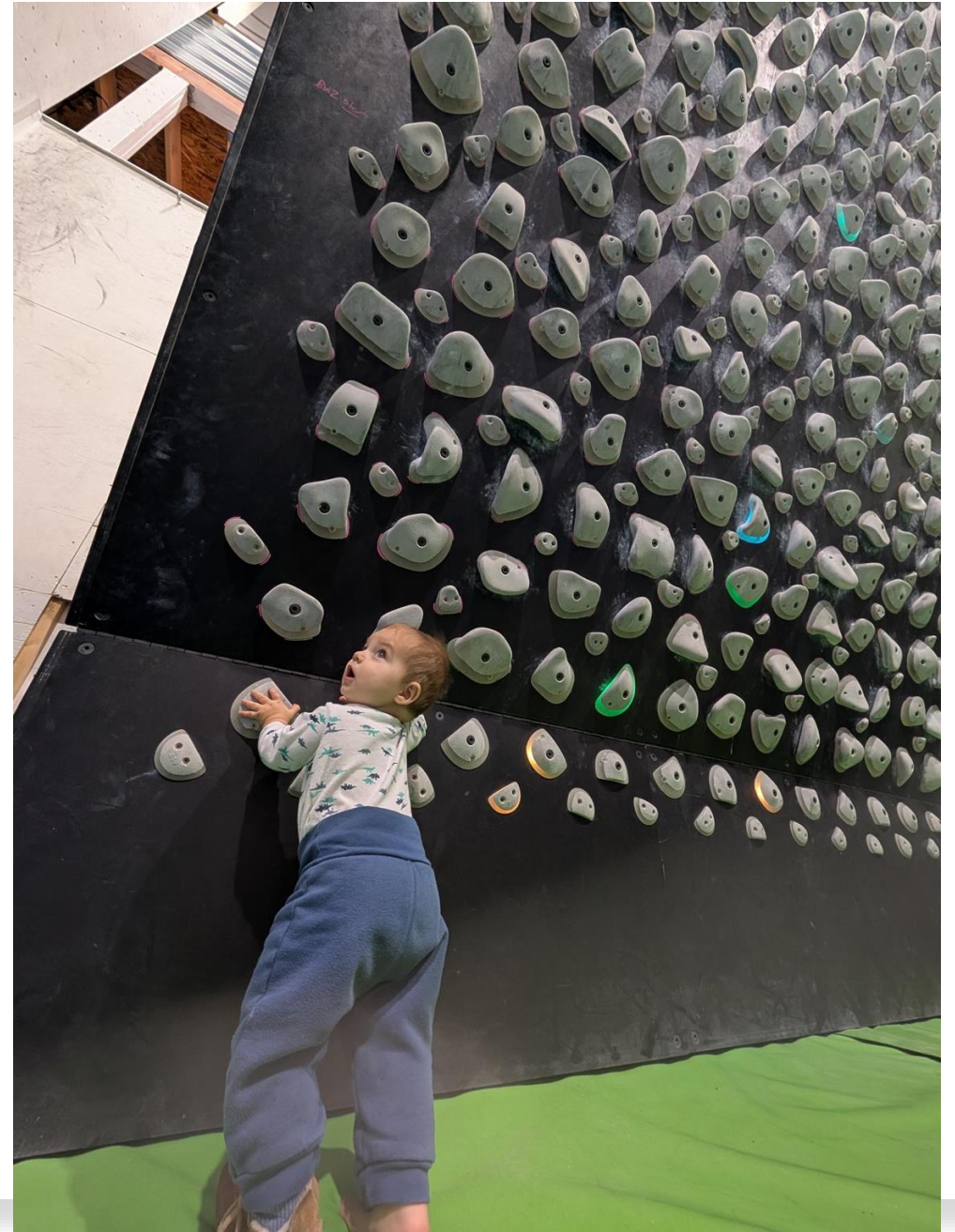
To foster a vibrant, inclusive climbing and wellness community in Creston.



# How did Kootenay Holds Start?

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What would make a climbing gym feasible in Creston?



# Research

## → **Town Plan**

- Page 38, item 1.6 says “Explore opportunities for the development and enhancement of sites and facilities for sports including, but not limited to: climbing...”

## → **Community Collaboration Project by the Chamber of Commerce**

- Survey pointed to a desired outcomes: Facilities that meet communities growing social, cultural, recreational and economic needs (climbing gym mentioned).

## → **Columbia Basin Trust Community Engagement around the Grain Elevators**

- Climbing gym was suggested by the community (building was structurally unable to hold one).

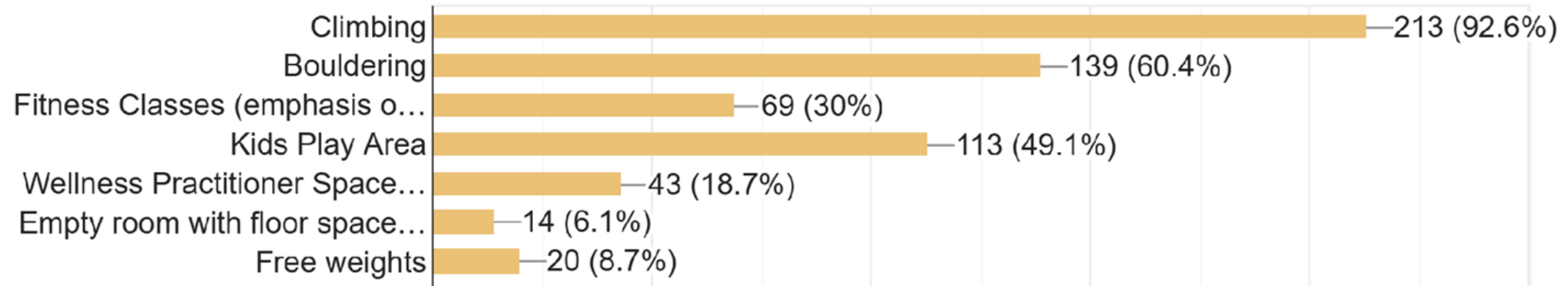
## → **Bunker Survey Jan, 2026**

- Common requests for the bunker to include “family-oriented spaces”; “community meeting or event space”, “indoor fitness or wellness facilities.”

# Survey Results

What activities interest you most?

230 responses



# Survey Results

Why would a community climbing and wellness centre be good for you and your family?

Other than the obvious health/exercise responses, we also heard:

84



## Kids' Health and Activities

"A safe space for us to burn off energy!"



Marianne Beier<sup>16</sup>

82



## We climbed before we came to Creston

"I used to go climbing and bouldering all the time. I would love to get back into it."



Collin Lee Jong Heuk

49



## Community Building

"The sense of community that comes from it is like nothing I've ever experienced in any other sport."

34



## Family Oriented Activities

"Having a space available that our family could go to recreate would be invaluable."

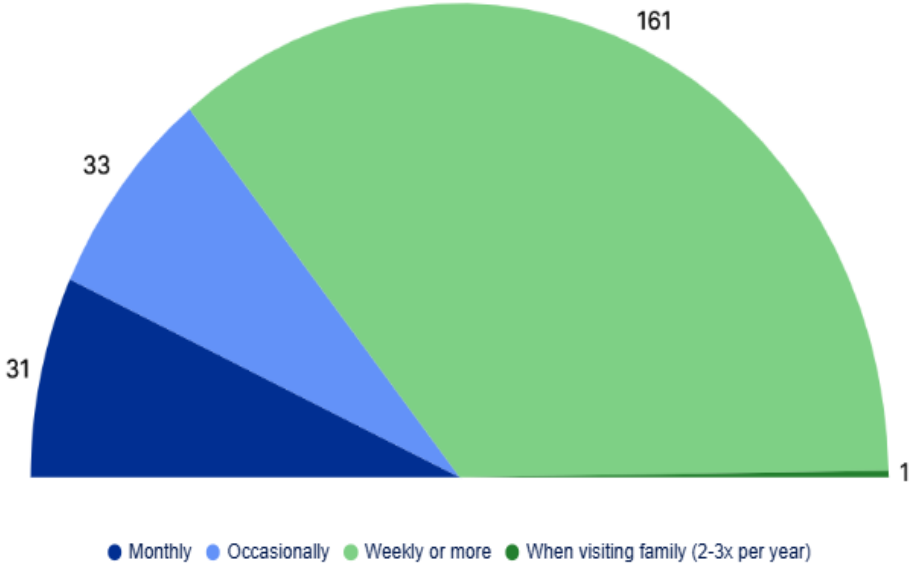


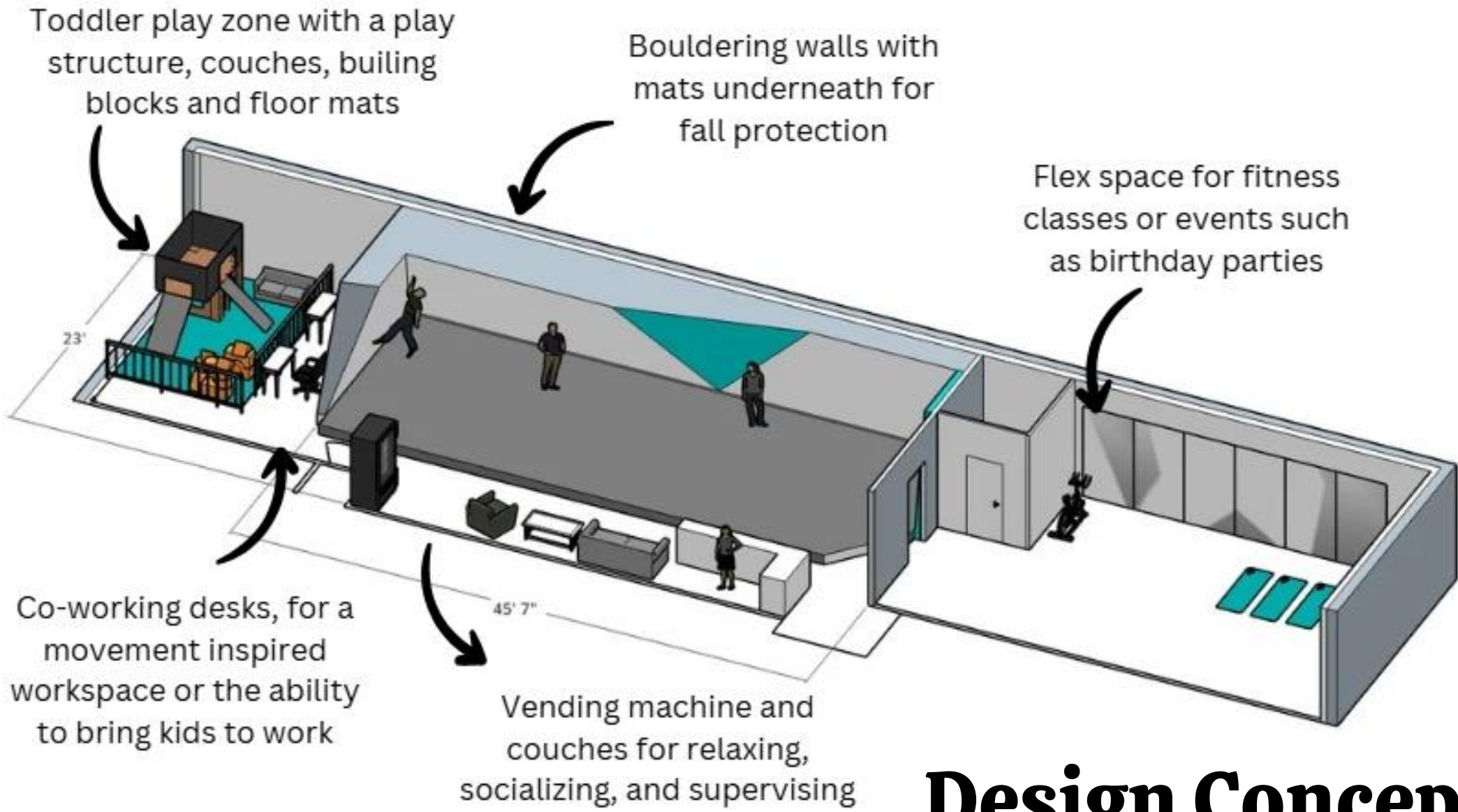
Rianna Walser

# Current Status

- 191 members in the Society
- 231 have responded to our online survey
  - 161 people would use this facility “weekly or more frequently”
- We have also specifically engaged:
  - Lower Kootenay Band
  - Creston Valley Youth Network
  - Town Planners of Creston
  - Valley Services
  - Embody Studio
  - Kootenay River Secondary Outdoor Ed and P.E.
  - Homelinks
  - Creston Valley Tourism
  - Columbia Basin Trust

How often would you use the centre?





# Design Concept

# Kids Play-Area Inspiration



Toddler safe treehouse/climbing area

Fort building play couches



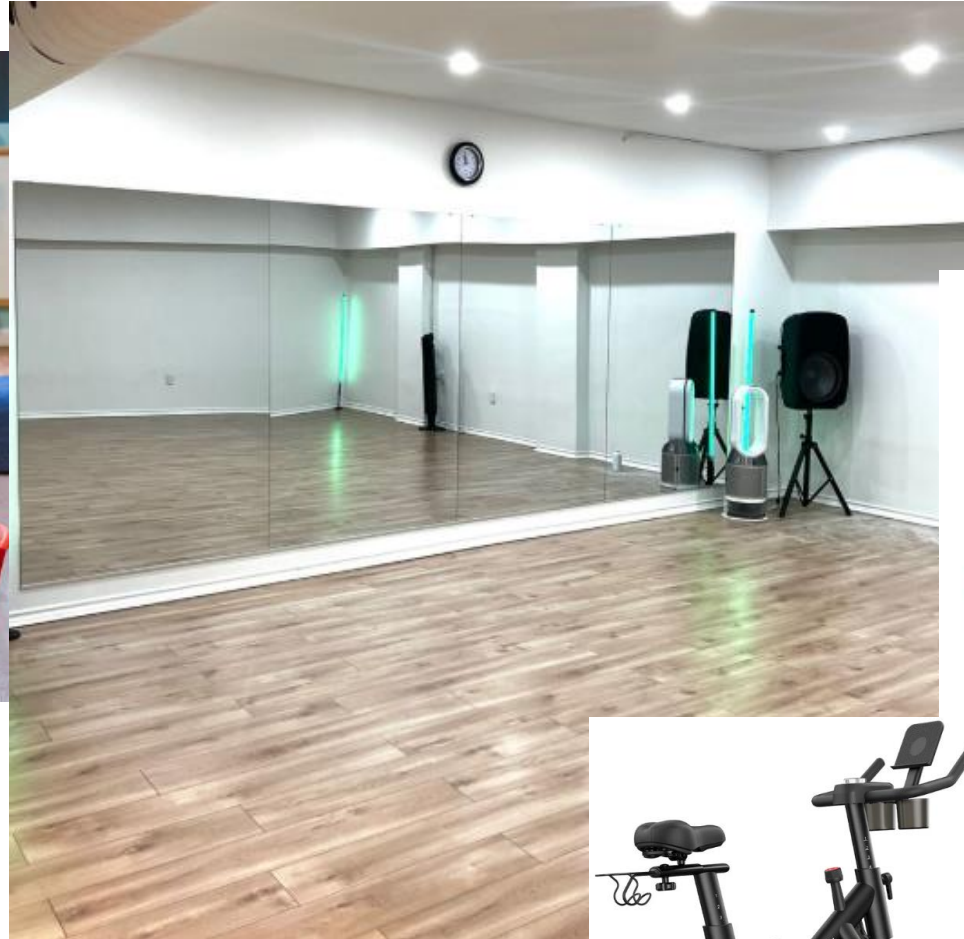
Toy and book storage



# Flex Space Inspiration



Birthday parties



Empty floor space for instructor rental,  
floor fitness and free weights



Basic fitness equipment



# Inclusivity

- Separate times for individuals to feel empowered
  - Women
  - Youth (Creston Valley Youth Network)
  - LGBTQ2S+ (Pride)
  - Sensory Friendly
  - Mom and Tot
  - Birthday Party time slots
  
- Ensure Accessibility through working with RDCK and Leisure Access Pass (and Valley Services)
  
- Gender Neutral Bathrooms

# Programming Ideas

- 3:00-5:30 After School Program
  - Ages 5-12, \$25
  
- Development Team
  - Ages 12-18, weekly coaching, fitness and competitions
  
- Summer, Spring Break, and Pro-D Day Programs
  
- Flex Room
  - Special Events
  - Birthday Parties
  - Fitness Classes
  - Dance Classes

# Sample Operations Income

## INCOME

Description	Amount	Monthly Quantity	Monthly Income
Monthly Passes			
Youth (<18)	\$40.00	6	\$240.00
Individual	\$65.00	30	\$1,950.00
Family of 4	\$120.00	30	\$3,600.00
Additional family memembr	\$20.00	0	\$0.00
Seniors (>65)	\$40.00	5	\$200.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>66</b>	<b>\$5,990.00</b>
Drop-In			
Child <walking FREE	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Child- kids play zone entry, ages walking - 6	\$5.00	10	\$50.00
Youth (<18)	\$12.00	5	\$60.00
Individual	\$17.00	20	\$340.00
Family of 4	\$35.00	10	\$350.00
Additional family member	\$5.00	0	\$0.00
Seniors	\$12.00	0	\$0.00
10 Punch Passes (6 months)			
<b>Total</b>		<b>47</b>	<b>\$1,200.00</b>
Programming			
After School Youth Program	\$100.00	14	\$1,400.00
Special events / Flex space rental			\$600.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$2,000.00</b>

**OVERALL TOTAL**

**\$9,190.00**

# Sample Operations Expense

## EXPENSE

Description	Monthly Expense
Overhead	
Rent	\$1,800.00
Insurance	\$350.00
Office Supplies	\$100.00
Cleaning Supplies	\$100.00
Maintenance /upkeep	\$400.00
Registration Software	\$120.00
Credit card payment fees	\$200.00
Bank fees	\$30.00
Quickbooks	\$30.00
Payworks	\$30.00
Marketing	\$200.00
<b>total</b>	<b>\$3,360.00</b>
Staff	
Operations Manager \$25/hour 30 hours per week	\$3,000.00
CPP / taxes	\$330.00
Youth program (2 x per week)	\$640.00
Route setting honorariums	\$1,200.00
<b>total</b>	<b>\$5,170.00</b>

**OVERALL TOTAL \$8,530.00**

Income	\$9,190.00
Expense	\$8,530.00
Surplus	\$660.00

# Start-Up Costs

## Income

Grants	\$75,000.00
Business Sponsorships / Community Contributions/ Fundraising Events	\$15,000.00
Presale Passes	\$10,000.00

## In-Kind

Volunteer Hours and Material Donations	\$12,550.00
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**Total \$112,550.00**

## Expenses

Volunteer Hours	\$6,000.00
Bouldering Wall	\$35,250.00
Mats	\$18,400.00
Holds	\$8,000.00
Childrens Play Zone	\$8,000.00
Leasehold Improvements	\$3,000.00
Fixtures and Storage	\$5,000.00
Furniture	\$1,200.00
Rental Shoes	\$1,500.00
Administration and Software	\$4,000.00
Electronics	\$1,200.00
Legal Fees (waivers, lease)	\$3,000.00

**Subtotal \$94,550.00**

Contingency approx 20%	\$18,000.00
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**Total \$112,550.00**

**Project Balance \$0.00**

# Goals

Raise \$40,000

Community sponsorships	Donations	Grants
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Secure support to match our local contributions

Columbia Basin Trust	Economic Development	Recreation	Health and Wellness	Children's Play Areas
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Secure location, finalize design, phase construction with final fundraising efforts

Creston Place - lease basement	College of the Rockies - new build	Other Options?
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# Our Request

- **Work with us to explore -**  
Partnerships (Service Partnership, Leisure Access Pass?)  
Locations (Rec Centre?)  
Further funding (Community Works Funds?)
- **Discretionary Funding**  
Each area individually, or overall support for our build
- **Letter of Support**  
Describing town's need for more recreation facilities and how this project will support economic growth, community connection, and individual wellness



The more fun, active things this town can offer, the better for everyone- especially the youth of Creston! Climbing is a great way to exercise and offers so much wellness (mental, physical and social)

Sheri Peel



I feel that a climbing centre would motivate someone such as myself who lives in Yahk to visit Creston more frequently

Tamara Parrott



# Thank you!

## Questions or Comments?

“This is a beautiful way to give people something healthy to do and build strong relationships. What Cranbrook did to pair it with a kids play area was smart because it created a second needed service and a place for parents to gather when the weather is not great outside.

Brendan Mitchell

## Creston Valley Library Director's Report

Prepared for the Creston Valley Services Committee

This report combines key items from the Creston Valley Library Board discussions and Library Director updates presented in May and June 2026, with a focus on governance, finance, service delivery, fundraising, and upcoming priorities.

### Governance and planning

The Library Board continued work on several governance priorities over the two-month period, including strategic planning, committee structure, and future board recruitment. In May, the board confirmed committee memberships, noted capacity for at least two more library board directors, and identified director contract renewal, a board self-evaluation, and an updated strategic framework as priority items for the coming year.

In June, the Director and Board Chair reported a positive meeting with Columbia Basin Trust Non-Profit Advisors regarding strategic planning and possible rebranding, with a written follow-up report expected to help guide organizational development. The discussion reflected an interest in ensuring the library's identity better matches its present funding and governance context.

### Services and usage

May usage figures presented in June showed the library remains heavily used across both physical and digital services despite ongoing Friday closures. The library was open 128 hours in May, recorded 3,926 visits, issued 35 new library cards, and logged total circulation of 10,459 items, including strong use of physical materials, digital collections, interlibrary loans, public computers, and Wi-Fi.

Meeting and reading room use remained especially strong, with 98 bookings in May and reports that some users had to be turned away because the rooms were near capacity. Staff also continued to provide one-on-one public support, including 38 tech help sessions in May, with particular demand related to government forms and census assistance.

Programming remained active, with adult, children's, intergenerational, and passive offerings continuing through the spring. Staff noted that some attendance figures appear lower at this time of year because preparation for the Summer Reading Club is underway, with multiple weekly programs planned through the summer.

### Fundraising and community outreach

A major focus in June was the Fund a Friday campaign, which aims to raise \$100,000 by the end of 2026 to support reopening the library on Fridays and to build broader awareness of library services and provincial funding pressures. As of June 15, the campaign had raised \$37,000 from a combination of service clubs, individual donations, events, and business sponsorships.

Board discussion highlighted strong early outreach results, including positive public response to campaign materials, media coverage, and engagement at Blossom Fest and the Farmers Market. The campaign is also shifting toward a business-oriented “sponsor a Friday” model at pairing financial support with recognition opportunities for local businesses. The library continues to receive support through day-to-day public donations and service revenue.

#### Advocacy and emerging issues

Board discussion in May raised concerns about reductions in school library staffing and the broader long-term decline in teacher-librarian positions. Trustees noted that while the public library welcomes school visits and wants children to connect with library services, it does not have the mandate or resources to replace school-based library functions.

In June, the board also discussed possible long-term financial resilience tools, including an exploratory conversation with the Creston Valley Community Foundation about a managed investment fund structure. This was framed as a future option rather than an immediate action, especially while active fundraising remains the primary focus.

#### Upcoming work

Key items ahead include continued fundraising through summer events and the Fall Fair, follow-up on strategic planning and rebranding advice, preparation for the Library Director's presentation to the RDCK Board, and a staff-board social gathering planned for September 15 before the next regular board meeting.

The next Library Board meetings are scheduled for September 15, October 20, and November 17, 2026.

## Regional Parks, Trails & Water Access Strategy

The RDCK Regional Parks, Trails & Water Access Strategy is a ten-year roadmap for how we plan, invest in, and care for our parks, trails and shorelines so that residents across the Central Kootenay can safely access nature, enjoy high-quality recreation, and protect important ecological and cultural values for future generations. Developed through extensive research and robust public engagement, it sets out a shared vision, guiding values, and practical tools to improve equitable access to lakes and rivers, expand and connect regional trail networks, advance inclusion and accessibility, and strengthen partnerships with stewardship groups and volunteers.

Stage 2 engagement is now underway, and this is the moment for the public to help refine the draft Strategy through the RDCK “Engage” webpage. From a local lens, feedback from residents in each community helps identify service gaps, priority sites, and on-the-ground issues—from water access and parking, to signage, amenities, and climate resilience—that might otherwise be missed. From a regional lens, comments on the proposed goals, land acquisition framework, governance and funding approaches, and reconciliation commitments will shape how we balance investment across the district and ensure all communities share in the benefits of our regional system.

I encourage everyone who uses or cares about our parks, trails, and water access to read the report and add their voice on RDCK Engage, so that the final Strategy truly reflects both local

Engage RDCK

<https://engage.rdck.ca/projects/regional-parks-trails-and-water-access-strategy/>

RPTWAS Report

[https://engage.rdck.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/2026-06-17\\_RDCK-PTWAS-FINAL.pdf](https://engage.rdck.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/2026-06-17_RDCK-PTWAS-FINAL.pdf)

Online Survey

<https://survey.alchemer-ca.com/s3/50594399/RDCK-Phase-two-public-engagement>

May 26, 2026

Director Aimee Watson, Chair  
Regional District of Central Kootenay  
PO Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive  
Nelson, BC V1L 5R4

Dear Chair Watson et. al: and Members of the RDCK Board of Directors

**Subject: Centennial Baseball Field Upgrade Operational Maintenance**

On behalf of Council, I am writing to formally request that the Regional District of Central Kootenay (the “RDCK”) consider including the Centennial Park Baseball Field within Recreation Service S224 for the purpose of cost-sharing ongoing operational maintenance and lifecycle asset management costs.

Council has agreed to collaborate with the Creston Valley Minor League Baseball Association and the Rotary Club of Creston Valley to proceed with upgrades to the Centennial Park Baseball Field, recognizing the project’s value in enhancing a key community recreational amenity. This proposed upgrade is conditional upon the RDCK committing financial support through Recreation Service S224 to ensure that ongoing maintenance and asset management costs are distributed equitably among all beneficiaries in the Creston Valley, including the Town of Creston and RDCK Electoral Areas A, B, and C.

Through consultation with representatives from Minor Baseball, RDCK staff and other communities to develop high-level estimates for maintenance, operational, and lifecycle costs. Current estimates place the annual cost of maintenance and lifecycle asset management between \$84,200 and \$109,200. These figures will be refined through detailed design work, which will only proceed if there is confirmed financial support for this project.



For reference, Council passed the following motion on May 12, 2026:

*THAT Council REQUESTS the Regional District of Central Kootenay Board commit to inclusion of the Centennial Park Baseball Field within Recreation Service S224 for the purpose of cost-sharing annual operating and maintenance costs and lifecycle asset management reserve contributions;*

*AND FURTHER THAT Council DIRECTS staff to submit the attached proposal to the Regional District of Central Kootenay to formally request inclusion of the Centennial Park Baseball Field within Recreation Service S224.*

We understand the RDCK has similar shared service arrangements for recreation amenities with other municipalities and value the opportunity to work collaboratively to support improved recreational amenities for residents across the region.

Sincerely,



Arnold Deboon  
Mayor

AD/mm

# GOAT RIVER WATERSHED WATER SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING JULY 2 2026 UPDATE



**YAQAN NUKIY**  
LOWER KOOTENAY BAND

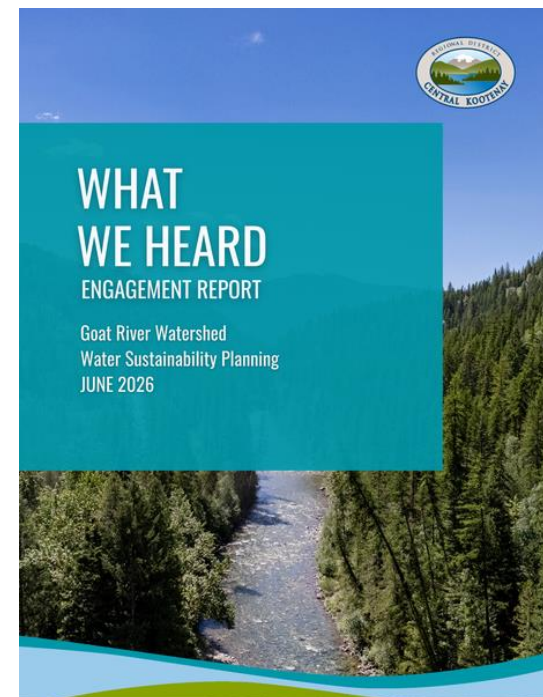
# WHAT WE HEARD ENGAGEMENT REPORT

The What We Heard Engagement Report is now available.

This report summarizes input gathered October 2025 – April 2026. It is a record of what the community shared, organized into themes that can help guide the next phase of planning, technical work, and continued engagement. This report does not present decisions.

## WHERE TO FIND IT

[engage.rdck.ca/projects/goatwatershed](https://engage.rdck.ca/projects/goatwatershed)



## HOW INFORMATION WAS GATHERED

**Water Values Survey**

220 responses

**Open Houses — 6 communities**

Canyon · Erickson · Kitchener · Town of Creston · West Creston · Wynndel

137 participants

**Producer Engagement Initiative**

15 on-farm visits

**Kitchen Table Conversations**

1 submission



**YAQAN NUKIY**  
LOWER KOOTENAY BAND

# WHAT WE HEARD MAJOR FINDINGS

## SEVEN THEMES EMERGED FROM ENGAGEMENT

- 1 Changing Water Conditions**  
Lower levels, drying creeks, shifting freshet timing
- 2 Water Availability & Seasonal Reliability**  
Water available in spring; demand peaks July–August
- 3 Infrastructure, Storage & System Efficiency**  
Pressure inconsistencies, leakage, metering, cost equity
- 4 Land Use, Forestry & Watershed Health**  
Strong connection between logging, land clearing, and water
- 5 Governance, Fairness & Accountability**  
Licensing delays, unclear roles, desire for direct dialogue
- 6 Communication, Trust & Shared Learning**  
Plain-language updates; confidence that input is used
- 7 Local Adaptation, Practical Ideas & Vision**  
Drip irrigation, on-farm storage, soil health, long-term planning

**76%**  
reported changes in  
water conditions

**Consistent across all streams:  
water quantity in the  
Goat River Watershed is declining.**



# RECOMMENDATIONS

1

## Strengthen the evidence base while keeping lived experience visible

Technical work on groundwater and hydrology responds to what communities described

2

## Address water availability through system improvements and demand-side action

Infrastructure assessment, storage, and water-efficient practices — neither alone is sufficient

3

## Keep land use, forestry, and ecological health central to the conversation

Forestry, riparian health, wetland function, and soil management belong at the table

4

## Clarify roles and establish more direct communication channels

Provincial vs. RDCK responsibilities were a source of genuine confusion for producers and residents

5

## Plan for the long term across the full range of watershed priorities

Household water security, agricultural viability, ecosystem health, and fairness are interconnected

## WHAT'S NEXT

- ➔ Phase 3 continues: focused conversations with residents, producers, irrigation districts, and industry
- ➔ Preliminary Assessment of Hydraulic Connectivity, a technical study on how water moves through the watershed.
- ➔ Collective Conversations Working Group and Creston Valley Directors Workshops



# UPCOMING IN PERSON EVENTS

## WEDNESDAY - JULY 8

### Kootenay Farmers Supply Drop-in Event

**11 am – 1 pm** - Kootenay Farmers Supply  
754 35th Ave South, Creston

Co-hosted with Ministry of Agriculture and Food staff

- Share perspectives on water conservation stages in the watershed
- Learn about the project and What We Heard Report
- Ask questions of RDCK and Ministry of Agriculture and Food staff
- Pick up a copy of the report and survey

## FRIDAY - JULY 24

### On the Land Gathering and CDCC Drop-in

**9:30 – 11:30 am** - Riverside Wilderness Park, Goat River  
**1:00 – 3:00 pm** - Drop-in at Creston and District Community Complex (CDCC)

Facilitated by RDCK staff

- Hear an update on the planning process
- Discuss what sustainability means in practice for the watershed
- Share perspectives on a sustainable water future
- Connect with the project team and community members



**YAQAN NUKIY**  
LOWER KOOTENAY BAND

# WATER SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING SURVEY

## The next survey, building on the first

The first Water Values Survey (220 responses) told us that water levels are declining, that the community cares deeply, and that residents want action.

This survey goes further asking what a sustainable watershed looks like, what trade-offs residents will consider, and how water decisions should be made.

**DEADLINE: August 1, 2026**

Open June 18 – August 1 · Anonymous · 10–12 minutes

Input contributes directly to the **Collective Conversations Working Group**, the tripartite table of RDCK staff, yaqan nuʔkiy, and the Province.

## WHERE TO FIND IT

Online

[engage.rdck.ca/projects/goatwatershed](https://engage.rdck.ca/projects/goatwatershed)

Paper copies

RDCK office — 531B-16 Avenue S, Creston

At events

July 8 and July 24 — return completed copies to the RDCK office

## THE SURVEY ASKS

- Your vision of a healthy, sustainable watershed
- Trade-offs you are willing to consider
- How you think decisions about water should be made

# WORKING GROUP AND WORKSHOPS WITH DIRECTORS

The **Collective Conversations Working Group** brings together staff from the RDCK, yaqan nu?kiy, and the Province. The aim is to scope a water management solution

The group will meet five more times between July and October to build shared understanding of conditions, roles and responsibilities, and priorities. To stay closely engaged, the Creston Valley Service Committee (CVSC) directors and RDCK staff meet monthly alongside the Collective Conversations Working Group. Learn more at [engage.rdck.ca/projects/goatwatershed](https://engage.rdck.ca/projects/goatwatershed)

**!** RDCK staff are not decision-makers in this process. The RDCK Board holds that authority. The Working Group may bring recommendations to the Board.



**WE ARE HERE**

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### WORKING GROUP

July 9 and July 10

July 30

August 20

September 17

October 8

### CRESTON VALLEY DIRECTORS

July 22

August 13

September TBD

October 7



**YAQAN NUKIY**  
LOWER KOOTENAY BAND

# HOW TO STAY INVOLVED

## READ THE REPORT

Read the [report](#) to see what was shared through engagement carried out in 2025 and into early 2026

Pick up paper copies at RDCK Office in Creston or at in-person events in Creston

## FILL OUT THE SURVEY

Share what a healthy, sustainable watershed looks like to you, what trade-offs you are willing to consider, and how you think decisions about water should be made.

It takes approximately 10 to 12 minutes to complete. All responses are anonymous.

## JOIN THE MAILING LIST

Stay up to date on the Goat River Watershed Water Sustainability Planning Project.

Sections include:

- latest news
- Ways to get involved
- Feature stories
- Did you know?

## SPEAK TO RDCK

Do you have questions about the project or process or want to share your perspective and watershed stories?

Contact your Area Directors or RDCK staff.

Contact information can be found at [rdck.ca/board](https://rdck.ca/board) for Directors or at the link below for project staff

[engage.rdck.ca/projects/goatwatershed](https://engage.rdck.ca/projects/goatwatershed)



**YAQAN NUKIY**  
LOWER KOOTENAY BAND

# JULY TIMELINE

## WHAT IS HAPPENING THIS MONTH

	Week of Jul 6	Week of Jul 13	Week of Jul 20	Week of Jul 27
<b>Working Group Meetings</b>	Jul 9 and July 10 Meeting #2			Jul 30 Meeting #3
<b>Elected Officials Engagement</b>			Jul 22 — CVSC Directors Values & Issues	
<b>Public Engagement</b>	Survey open (closes Aug 1)			
	Jul 8 — Producer Event Kootenay Farmers Supply		Jul 24 — On the Land Gathering Riverside Wilderness Park and Drop in at CDCC	
<b>Hydraulic Connectivity</b>	Jul 3 — RFP submissions close	Jul 17 — Proposals reviewed		
<b>C2C Coordination</b>	Ongoing — yaqan nu?kiy & RDCK			
<b>Board &amp; Communication</b>	Jul 2 — CVSC	Jul 16 — RDCK Board		



# CVSC July 2 Update

## Goat River Watershed

**Report Date: July 2, 2026**

### Goat River Watershed Water Sustainability Planning

#### Purpose

To provide an update to the Creston Valley Services Committee on the Goat River Watershed Water Sustainability Planning project, including the launch of the What We Heard Engagement Report, upcoming producer and community engagement events, the second public survey, and the Collective Conversations Working Group schedule.

#### Context

Early engagement carried out from October 2025 to April 2026 is now complete. The What We Heard Engagement Report has been publicly released, summarizing input from over 350 residents, producers, and community members across six communities in the watershed. The project now moves into the second part of Phase 3: direct engagement with producers, residents, irrigation and improvement districts, and industry, alongside the Collective Conversations Working Group process with the Province and yaqan nu?kiy

#### 1.0 What We Heard Engagement Report

The What We Heard Engagement Report is now publicly available. The report brings together input gathered through five engagement streams: a Water Values Survey (220 responses), six open houses across Canyon, Erickson, Kitchener, Town of Creston, West Creston, and Wynndel (137 participants), Kitchen Table Conversations, an online engagement platform, and a dedicated producer engagement initiative that included on-farm visits with 15 producers.

Seven themes emerged from engagement. A consistent message across all streams was that water quantity in the Goat River Watershed is declining. Producers noted the mismatch between when water is available and when it is most needed as a current operational reality, not a future risk. Residents also identified the need for clearer communication about agency roles and greater confidence that input will lead to action.

The seven themes are:

- Changing water conditions and visible signs of stress
- Water availability, access, and seasonal reliability
- Infrastructure, storage, and system efficiency
- Land use, forestry, and watershed health
- Governance, fairness, and accountability
- Communication, trust, and shared learning
- Local adaptation, practical ideas, and long-term vision

**For more information**

[info@rdck.bc.ca](mailto:info@rdck.bc.ca) | 250.352.6665 | 1.800.268.7325 (BC) | or visit [rdck.ca](http://rdck.ca)

The report does not present decisions. It is a record of what the community shared, organized to guide the next phase of planning and technical work.

The report is available at [engage.rdck.ca/projects/goatwatershed](https://engage.rdck.ca/projects/goatwatershed). Paper copies are available at the RDCK office at 531B-16 Avenue S, Creston.

## 2.0 Upcoming In-Person Events

### Wednesday, July 8 — Producer Engagement Event

RDCK and Ministry of Agriculture and Food staff will host a drop-in event at **Kootenay Farmers Supply (754 35th Ave South, Creston) from 11 am to 1 pm**. The event is directed at food producers in the Goat River Watershed. Producers can learn about the project, share perspectives on how water conservation stages are currently employed in the watershed, ask questions of staff, and pick up a copy of the report and survey.

### Friday, July 24 — On the Land Gathering and Drop-in

RDCK staff will host a community gathering at **Riverside Wilderness Park on the Goat River from 9:30 to 11:30 am, followed by a drop-in at the Creston and District Community Complex (CDCC) from 1 to 3 pm**. The gathering is open to all community members. Participants will hear about the planning process, discuss what sustainability means in practice for the watershed, and share their perspectives on a sustainable water future.

Paper copies of the report and survey will be available at both events. Completed survey copies should be returned to the RDCK office at 531B-16 Avenue S, Creston.

## 3.0 Water Sustainability Planning Survey

A second public survey is now open. Building on the Water Values Survey (220 responses), this survey asks residents what a healthy, sustainable watershed looks like to them, what trade-offs they are willing to consider, and how they think decisions about water should be made. Responses are anonymous and take approximately 10 to 12 minutes to complete.

Input will contribute directly to the Collective Conversations Working Group process. The survey is open from June 18 to August 1, 2026.

The survey is available:

- Online at [engage.rdck.ca/projects/goatwatershed](https://engage.rdck.ca/projects/goatwatershed)
- On paper at the RDCK office, 531B-16 Avenue S, Creston
- On paper at the July 8 and July 24 events — completed copies must be returned to the RDCK office

## 4.0 Collective Conversations Working Group

In late May, RDCK staff met with the Province (Ministries of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, Forests, and Agriculture) and yaqan nu?kiy for the first meeting of the Collective Conversations Working Group. The group will meet five more times between July and October to build shared understanding of conditions, roles and responsibilities, and priorities. The aim is to scope a water management solution for the yaqan nu?kiy ?amakis— Creston Valley Goat River Watershed.

RDCK staff are not decision-makers in this process. The RDCK Board holds that authority. The Collective Conversations Working Group may bring recommendations to the Board.

To stay closely engaged, the Creston Valley Service Committee directors and RDCK staff meet monthly alongside the Collective Conversations Working Group. Upcoming meeting dates:

**Collective Conversations Working Group meetings:**

- July 9 and 10
- July 30
- August 20
- September 17
- October 8

**Creston Valley Directors workshops:**

- July 22 — Values, Future State, and Issues
- August 13 — Jurisdictions, Roles, and Responsibilities
- September date tbd — Determining Suitable Tools: Inventory and Evaluation Criteria
- October 7 — Determining Suitable Tools: Assessment and Path to Recommendation

**5.0 Hydraulic Connectivity Study**

A Preliminary Assessment of Hydraulic Connectivity is underway to develop a clearer understanding of the relationships between bedrock groundwater, overlying aquifers, and surface water systems across the watershed. A Request for Proposals closes July 3, 2026. Proposals will be under review until July 13 and a contract is expected to be awarded in August, following the August 20 RDCK Board meeting.

**Next Steps – July 2026**

- Hold producer engagement event at Kootenay Farmers Supply (July 8)
- Convene Collective Conversations Working Group meetings (July 9, 10, and 30)
- Hold CVSC Directors workshop on Values, Future State, and Issues (July 22)
- Host On the Land Gathering and CDCC drop-in (July 24)
- Continue collecting survey responses (open until August 1)
- Review proposals and advance Hydraulic Connectivity Study procurement

**Stay Informed**

For more information on the Goat River Watershed Water Sustainability Planning project, visit [engage.rdck.ca/projects/goatwatershed](https://engage.rdck.ca/projects/goatwatershed). Sign up for the mailing list to receive updates as the project moves forward.

**CVSC ACTION ITEMS LIST – 2026-07-02**

#	ACTION ITEM	MEETING ORIGIN	STATUS
1.	<b>STAFF DIRECTION:</b> That the Board direct staff to prepare a draft policy for Board review that requires recipients of financial grant in aid funds to engage with local area Directors and/or provide documentation during the budget process, to be eligible for funding via taxation in a given year.	05-Jan-2023	This has fallen back in the priority list based on other work. We are working with Directors and individual groups.
2.	<b>STAFF DIRECTION:</b> Dangerous Dog Bylaw to be written to enable Staff to work sub-regionally in conjunction with RCMP to act on dangerous dogs including provisions for safe and approved housing and care of animals until their future is determined.	02-Mar-2023	The Est. Bylaw has received voter approval. Regulatory bylaw adoption this fall. Taxation will start in 2027.  This will be removed from list next update and monitored through the Board quarterly report for the final Administrative pieces.
3.	<b>STAFF DIRECTION:</b> Staff to create a contribution agreement with Kootenay River Secondary School where RDCK lists what the funding is for and what the expectations are for the funding. To formalize the agreement, Staff to include in the agreement what the rates are that RDCK is going to charge to receive that funding. CVSC would review the contribution agreement with Kootenay River Secondary School every year.	01-Jun-2023	Ongoing. Staff will include funding for the auditorium in conversations with SD8 regarding facility use discussion. SD8 is in a consultation process to determine public use policies. Conversation should be with SD8 administration.
4.	<b>STAFF DIRECTION:</b> That staff request a workshop/session (in conjunction with a site visit for the Creston Valley Services Committee) with the Traditional Use Study (TUS) authors, the Ktunaxa Nation and Yaqan Nukiy, to educate the Committee to better understand the TUS.	09-Sept-2023	Ongoing. Staff meeting with Ktunaxa and LKB staff October 30, 2024. Staff and Directors participated in the TUS Workshop with Ktunaxa in April 2025. Staff is arranging a workshop on Regional Parks in Creston, A,B,C.
5.	<b>STAFF DIRECTION:</b> That staff investigate how would a stabilization reserve could be adopted for Service S108 Economic Development – Creston and Areas B and C; and itemizing all the beneficiaries that are recipients of Service S108.	05- Mar-2026	Delayed. Original goal was July CVSC.  A report will be brought to August CVSC. The EOI for the service has been delayed due to the Castlegar and J Rec Project.