



District of Wells

Official Community Plan

Fall 2024



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DISTRICT OF WELLS

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The District of Wells respectfully acknowledges the community of Wells and the surrounding area is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Southern Dakeh Nations: Lhtako Dene Nation and Northern Shuswap: Xatśūll First Nation.

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 - Environmental Assessment Office
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We appreciate the time you have taken from your busy schedules to contribute to the development of this Plan. Your input was critical to ensuring that the new Official Community Plan reflects the vision, values, and opportunities in the District of Wells.

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GLOSSARY OF COMMON TERMS

Active Transportation. Non-motorized forms of transportation include walking, cycling, and rolling via a wheelchair, scooter, or other micromobility device.

Brownfield. Land previously used for industrial purposes or certain commercial uses that may be contaminated by low concentrations of hazardous waste or pollution and have the potential to be reused after remediation.

Bylaw. A law passed and adopted by the District under the powers granted by the *Local Government Act*.

Density. Used to describe the number of dwelling units per hectare or acre.

Development Permit Area. An area designated in the Official Community Plan requiring council approval before a building permit can be issued.

Encourages. The municipality may create policies, programs, procedures, and bylaws to facilitate the efficient implementation of certain initiatives.

Ensures. The municipality shall create policies and enforceable bylaws.

Heritage Registry. A property that Council has recognized as having heritage value.

Land Use. Category of activity present or permitted on a specific property or area.

Local Government Act. The *Local Government Act* is the primary legislation for regional districts and local municipalities, setting out the framework for structure and operation and the main powers and responsibilities.

Official Community Plan. A general statement of broad objectives and policies of the local government respecting the form and character of existing and proposed land use and servicing requirements in the jurisdiction.

People of All Ages and Abilities. The term refers to all people regardless of physical or mental abilities and is age-independent.

Supports. The municipality may provide support through funding, programming, technical support, and/or through facilitating collaboration between levels of government or community entities.

Traffic Calming. Measures taken to mitigate negative impacts of vehicle traffic. (e.g., speed humps, curb bump-outs, pavement markings, etc.)

Universal Design. Design of products and environments to be useable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without needing adaptation or specialized design.

Urban Design. Considers the arrangement, appearance, and function of specific areas, buildings, and public spaces. The primary role of Urban Design is to enhance the quality of public spaces.

Zoning. The division of the District by bylaw into discreet areas in which density, land use, and other considerations are regulated.

ACRONYMS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):

OCP: Official Community Plan

LGA: Local Government Act

CRD: Cariboo Regional District

VIC: Visitor Information Centre

WBCF: Wells-Barkerville Community Forest Ltd.

FRPA: Forest and Range Practices Act

UPA: Units Per Acre

UPH: Units Per Hectare

WBCRC: Wells-Barkerville Culture and Recreation Centre

CEEI: Community Energy Efficiency Inventory

WATS: Wells Area Trails Society

DPA: Development Permit Area

TUP: Temporary Use Permit

FCNRP: FireSmart Canada Neighborhood Recognition Program

1.0 INTRODUCTION



The District of Wells (incorporated 1998) is nestled near the end of Highway 26, 78 kilometres east of Quesnel. The District is known for its colourful, quaint historical buildings and murals that decorate the community, creating a sense of place that inspires creativity. The Townsite is surrounded by wild spaces and forested slopes that extend beyond District boundaries. Wells was developed as a planned mining town in the 1930s for the Cariboo Gold Quartz Mine, which shut down in 1967. It is the gateway to several major tourist attractions, including the Barkerville Historic Town & Park and the Bowron Lakes Provincial Park canoe circuit. The community is also home to a vibrant arts community that includes several organizations, festivals, and events, including Island Mountain Arts (est. 1977), galleries, and year-round live performance spaces like the Sunset Theatre and SARRAS (Stage and Recording, Retreat and Sanctuary).

As a community, the District of Wells has proven time and time again that it is hard-working and diverse. As a small community at the end of the road, the residents wear many hats and don't shy away from a challenge. For many years, the District of Wells has seen limited population growth. While much of the economy has transitioned to tourism and the arts, the District has lacked a primary economic engine that can attract new families to live and work in the town. A proposed new mining development presents opportunities for population growth and revitalization, and this Plan seeks to provide a framework for the District of Wells to grow in a way that complements its unique character.

This Plan embodies the vision of the District of Wells residents and charts a land use framework designed to guide community development for the next 20 years. The Plan provides a balanced approach and direction for land use development and other key policies shaping how the District of Wells grows and adapts in the face of an always-changing future.

1.1 20-YEAR VISION FOR THE DISTRICT OF WELLS



The District of Wells is a peaceful, eclectic community recognized as a centre for arts, culture, and heritage. The community includes a diverse mix of creative professionals, industrial workers, and tourism workers who live cohesively in a healthy and peaceful natural environment. Natural resources are managed responsibly to protect community health, quality of life, the environment, and the local economy. Investments in public infrastructure are prioritized to ensure high standards of community and environmental health. The District of Wells will be a self-sustaining community between 300 to 500 permanent and part-time residents.

1.2 A SUSTAINABILITY LENS

The District’s commitment to sustainability provides an overarching theme for the Official Community Plan and its guiding principles. Each of the Plan’s guiding principles enhances the sustainability of the District’s environment, economy, and social cohesion.

Residents of the District are passionate about environmental stewardship and sustainability. People in the community dedicate their time and effort to a host of volunteer causes, often wearing multiple hats as they try to make the District the best place it can be. The words sustainable, self-sufficient, and sustaining were frequently used by respondents in the OCP survey, and the OCP has been written through the lens of sustainability and resiliency.

The classic definition of sustainability comes from the United Nation’s *Brundtland Commission* report titled “Our Common Future.” It defines sustainable development as “development which meets the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

The idea of sustainable development suggests achieving economic growth without damaging environmental or social systems is possible. In addition, resiliency has also gained traction and importance in the community in the face of climate change. The District was heavily impacted by wildfire in 2017, highlighting the need to rethink how the community prepares and plans for a future with increasing risk from extreme weather events.



The District's Capital Deferral Plan outlines critical infrastructure risk priorities and costs. The plan includes immediate and deferred costs to the District – essential information for budgeting and fundraising purposes. This risk-based approach ensures that plans are in place to address high-priority issues and that solutions are implemented proactively. The District's proactive approach facilitates sustainability financially, socially and environmentally through risk mitigation.

1.3 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Through the planning and engagement process, several common themes emerged. These common themes were synthesized into the Seven Guiding Principles that have guided the development of the OCP and will guide future planning and decision-making.

- i. *Develop a community that is both environmentally and economically sustainable.*
 - The District envisions a community that values and protects its natural assets and visually interesting landscapes while also supporting sustainable economic growth that aligns with the community's vision.
- ii. *Invest in infrastructure upgrades that will promote community and environmental health.*
 - Infrastructure upgrades, including but not limited to water systems, right-of-way improvements, and efficient waste management, are essential to developing a cost-effective, safe, and connected community.
- iii. *Strike a balance between arts, culture, heritage, and industry.*
 - As the District experiences economic growth, particularly in industrial activities, decisions must be guided by the principle of retaining and enhancing Wells' unique arts, culture, and heritage.
- iv. *Diverse and affordable housing options for residents and seasonal workers.*
 - Developing a diversity of permanent and temporary housing types and tenures will be important for the economic and population growth of the community. Increased diversity in the housing stock will be needed to accommodate future economic activity, tourism, and permanent population growth.
- v. *Maintain Wells' unique character and pedestrian-first, compact design.*
 - Creating a pedestrian-oriented community through a compact land use structure and high-quality pedestrian facilities will provide residents and visitors

with key benefits, including improved health and safety and enhanced social cohesion.

vi. Create an inclusive, self-sufficient community.

- Developing key residential, commercial, and recreational uses will be an important consideration to ensure that the District of Wells can fulfill its diverse and inclusive population's short- and long-term needs.

vii. The District of Wells will continue to be a peaceful and quiet community.

- Through sustainable economic development, enhanced outdoor recreational opportunities, and well-designed residential and commercial growth, Wells can retain its unique character as a peaceful and quiet community.

viii. Develop a community designed to be fully accessible for people of all ages and abilities.

- Through key infrastructure upgrades and new developments based on the concept of universal design, Wells will be an inviting community for all people. By enhancing the accessibility of Wells, residents will be more easily able to age in place rather than need to relocate.

1.4 PURPOSE OF THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

An Official Community Plan (OCP) provides the framework and direction for the development and evolution of a community. The OCP is a Council-endorsed and adopted document that serves as a municipality's highest level of policy guidance. Typically, OCPs are updated every five to ten years. The District of Wells' current OCP was last updated in 2010.

What is an OCP for and who uses it?

The OCP is a municipality's highest-level policy document. The OCP answers the question **“where will new development go and what will it look like?”** but it also provides direction for a variety of important topics, including:

- Recreation and Parks
- Social Development (education, equity and inclusion, culture, poverty, etc.)
- Environmental Protection and Hazards (areas that should not be developed)
- Climate Change and Community Resilience
- Infrastructure (roads, sewer, water, electricity, and telecommunications)

- Economic Development
- Housing
- Community Safety
- Design and Architecture
- Location of Land Uses (residential, park, industrial, commercial, etc.)

Citizens, landowners, businesses, and developers use the OCP to guide property and investment decisions. Council and staff use it to guide municipal decisions such as budgeting, servicing, capital projects, land use, and development proposals. The School District and other agencies use it to guide facility planning, as well as program and service delivery.

In January 2021, the District of Wells began the process of creating a new OCP. This new OCP process is timely as the recently approved mining project will include an underground gold mine, concentrator facility, offices, work camp, and associated facilities within the District of Wells. The proposed mine has an anticipated life span of 12 – 16 years (or longer). It is expected to employ an estimated 460 employees regionally (British Columbia & Alberta), as well as contractors and consultants, with approximately 250 workers during peak construction.

The mining project has the potential to significantly change the demographic makeup of the community and provide new employment opportunities. Understanding the values and priorities of current, long-term residents in the District of Wells is important in a changing community.

1.5 INTERPRETATION AND ADMINISTRATION

An OCP is an Official Community Plan as referred to in the Local Government Act (LGA) and as adopted by the District of Wells (hereafter referred to as the District) in accordance with the requirements of the LGA.

The following section provides an overview of the administrative procedures for implementing the District of Wells OCP:

1. This OCP comes into effect as of the date of formal adoption by the District.
2. This Plan will be reviewed regularly so that the document continues to accurately reflect the long-range planning objectives of the District. The Plan is recommended to undergo a comprehensive review every seven to ten years.
3. The OCP can only encourage senior levels of government to act; it cannot force or require senior governments to act. Furthermore, although the OCP cannot commit the District to specific expenditures, the District cannot enact bylaws or undertake works contrary to it without amending the Plan.
4. No one Goal, Objective or Policy contained within this Plan should be read in isolation from the others to imply a particular action or consequence.

1.6 AUTHORITY

In British Columbia, municipalities have the authority to adopt OCPs through Part 14 of the British Columbia LGA. This legislation stipulates what can and must be included in an Official Community Plan and the adoption procedures. This District of Wells OCP has been prepared in compliance with this legislation.

It should also be noted that the LGA provides local governments authority over land use but not resource extraction. This means that mining, quarrying, and forestry activities are not subject to local government bylaws. However, mineral processing and sawmills are considered use of the land and fall under the provisions of the LGA.

This authority to regulate land use does not extend to the Federal or Provincial Governments for the use of lands owned by these governments. However, it does extend to leases of Provincial Crown land (although not Federal land). Therefore, some permits and tenures issued by the Provincial Government may be subject to local government land use approvals, as well as Crown approvals. These include:

- Special use permits – new applications (not including forestry and other resource extraction activities)
- Power projects
- Land sales (future owner will be subject to local bylaws)
- Quarries (extraction is not subject to local regulation, but processing may be)
- Agriculture
- Community/institutional uses
- Transportation (some facilities/structures are subject to zoning)
- Communication sites (some structures may be subject to local regulations)
- Industrial activities
- Commercial/recreation tenures
- Aquaculture/mariculture
- General commercial
- Film production

1.7 STRUCTURE OF THE PLAN

The OCP is organized into seven chapters. Chapter 1 introduces the reader to the purpose and authority of the OCP, the structure of the OCP and most importantly, the community's future vision and guiding principles. The vision and seven guiding principles are woven through the entire OCP. Chapter 2 provides useful context for the OCP and lays out key background information on demographics, the economy, the environment, and projections for future growth. Chapter 3 provides an overview of the planning process and the steps taken to engage with the community.

In Chapter 4, the Plan focuses on the future and presents the land use designations that will guide development over the next 20 years. Chapter 5 includes social, environmental, and economic policies and objectives. Chapter 6 includes critical information on development permits.

The OCP concludes with a chapter focused on implementation, which contains policies for development permits and temporary use permits, as well as a framework for implementing and monitoring the progress of the OCP. The proposed monitoring framework is linked closely to the Vision & Principles to ensure the community continues working towards their overarching goals.

The details presented in this Plan consist of two main components: one contains the force of the bylaw, and the other is provided only for information and convenience. The sections that have the force of the bylaw include:

1. Objectives
2. Policies
3. Land Use Designations
4. Schedules A and B – Future Land Use Maps

All other sections, including introductory text and background information, are provided for information only.

2.0 BACKGROUND & PLANNING CONTEXT

2.1 LOCATION & PLANNING AREA

The District of Wells encompasses a large area totalling 159 square kilometres and is located on the North Slope of the Cariboo Plateau, 78 kilometres east of Quesnel. Much of this area is Crown land, and the Wells Townsite area only accounts for approximately 1.6 square kilometres near the District's Centre. While this Plan applies to the entirety of the District's land area, most of its policies are focused on the Wells Townsite area where most activity occurs.

Neighbourhoods north of the highway are known as "North Wells" or "Uptown," and neighbourhoods to the south are known as "South Wells." North Wells includes most of the institutional uses, community amenities, and a mix of commercial and residential uses. South Wells includes a mix of residential, commercial, and industrial uses.

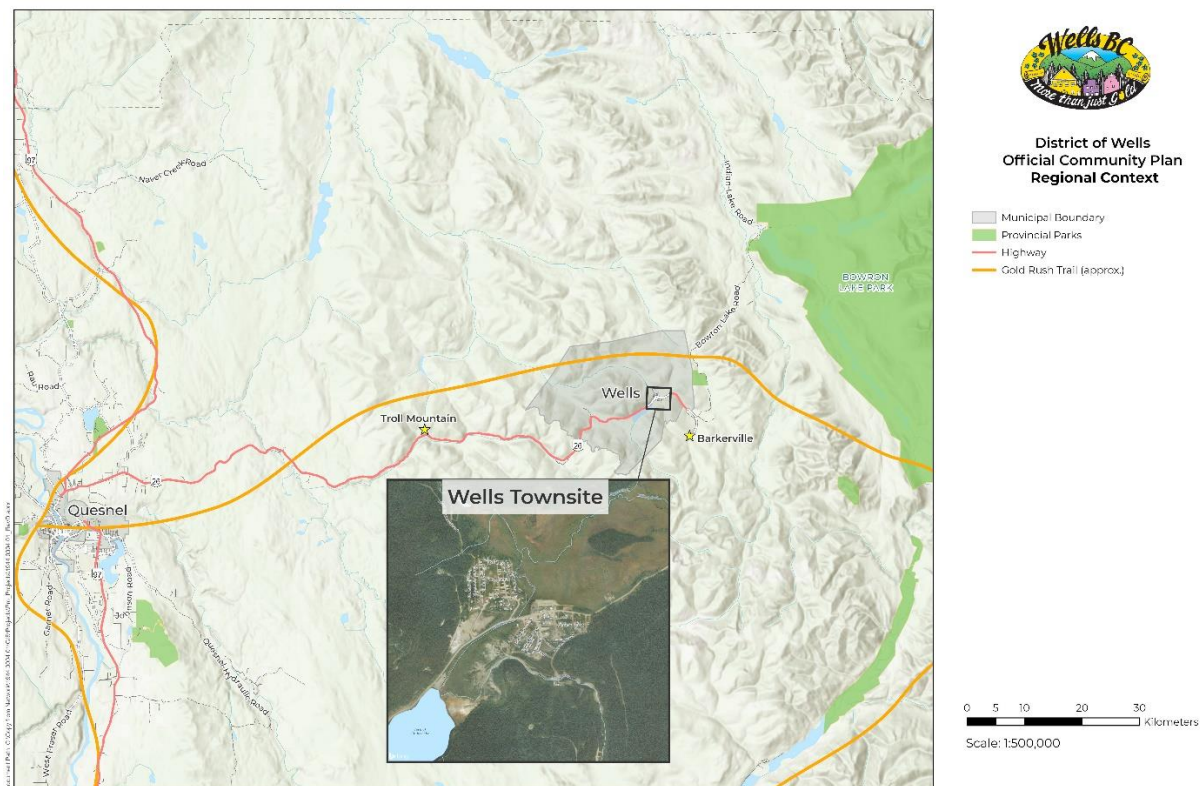


Figure 2: Regional Context Map

2.2 REGIONAL CONTEXT & MODERN HISTORY

The District of Wells is approximately 78 kilometres east of Quesnel, BC, on the Barkerville Highway (Highway 26). The District of Wells is an iconic community in the Cariboo region, located within Electoral Area C of the Cariboo Regional District. The District of Wells is situated in the Cariboo Mountains at an elevation of 1,200 metres at the Willow River and Williams Creek confluence. The Wells Townsite area is centred on a gravel knoll overlooking Jack of Clubs Lake, surrounded by forested hills and a scenic wetland and meadow area.¹

The District of Wells is a small community with a permanent population of approximately 218 people. A historic gold mining town, it is the gateway to several major tourist attractions including Barkerville Historic Town & Park, Troll Resort and the Bowron Lakes Provincial Park canoe circuit. The District of Wells is known for its strong arts community (14% of residents in the District of Wells are employed by arts, culture, or recreation, compared to 4% Province-

¹ District of Wells Official Community Plan. 1998.

wide) as Wells is home to Island Mountain Arts. This well-known gallery holds workshops and festivals, among other events.

Gold mining has continued to be a part of the District of Wells, with placer miners consistently living and working in the District of Wells. In 2015, exploration began for the new gold mine, which has the potential to start a new chapter in the community's mining history. The project presents both opportunities and challenges for the local and regional community and, after a three-year Environmental Assessment Process, obtained an Environmental Certificate from the provincial government in October 2023. The Government of British Columbia is responsible for the mine project's environmental certificate and related permits.



2.3 INDIGENOUS TERRITORY

The District of Wells is located in the shared ancestral territories of the Dakelh (Carrier) and Secwepemctsin (Secwépemc or Shuswap)-speaking Peoples. Several nations have history and territory in the area, including the Lhtako Dene Nation, Nazko First Nation, Lhoosk'uz Dené Nation, Ulkatcho First Nation, ?Esdilagh First Nation, Xatšúll First Nation, Simpcw First Nation, and Lheidli T'enneh First Nation. Evidence of early Indigenous settlement in the region dates back over 10,000 years.

The area around Wells up to the Barkerville Valley was important for gathering medicinal plants, blueberries and soap berries. For years, the history and stories of Indigenous peoples were largely absent from the area, including at the Barkerville Historic site. In recent years, new efforts have been made toward reconciliation with local First Nations, and these stories are slowly becoming more present. However, the District recognizes that there is still a lot of work to do to acknowledge injustices that occurred in the past and that are still occurring to this day.



Figure 3: Wild Blueberries

2.4 DEMOGRAPHICS

2.4.1 DEMOGRAPHICS & POPULATION:

The District of Wells population has been declining since 2011: The District of Wells population declined by 28 people (11.4%) from 2011 to 2016 and remained steady between 2016 and 2021; at the same time, the CRD population was constant, and the provincial population increased by 5.6% (Source: Statistics Canada Census Program, Census Profiles 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2021).²

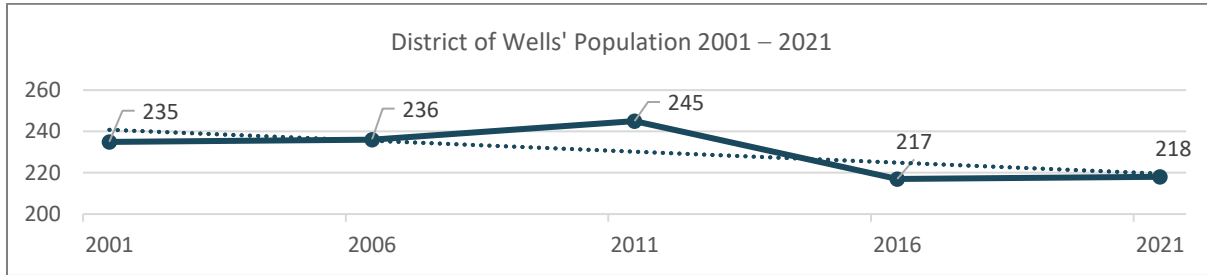


Figure 4: Population Growth (2001 – 2021)

2.4.2 AGE

The District of Wells has an ageing population: Similar to provincial trends, the District hosts an aging population. The District of Wells also has slightly fewer children under 14 compared to regional and provincial trends. The District of Wells median age of 48.8 years is older than the regional (47.4) and provincial averages (43).

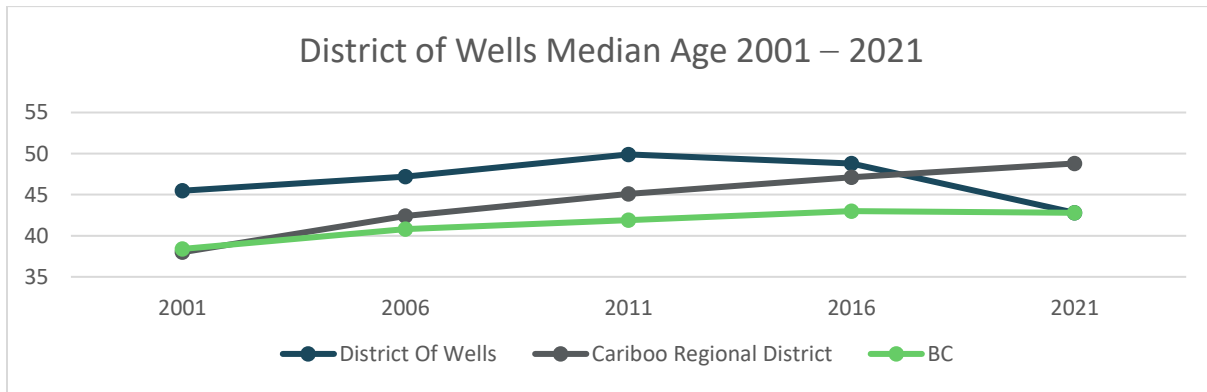


Figure 5: Changes in the District's Age Structure (2001 – 2021)

² Due to the different methods of Census data collection and rounding, total counts and percentages for data included in this document may not always be consistent.

Table 1: The District's age distribution compared to the region and Province.

AGE DISTRIBUTION	DISTRICT OF WELLS	CARIBOO RD	BC
0 to 14 years	15.9%	15.2%	14.3%
15 to 64 years	68.2%	60.3%	65.3%
65 years and over	18.2%	24.5%	20.3%
85 years and over	0%	2%	2.4%
Median age	42.8	48.8	42.8

Source: Statistics Canada Census Program, Census Profiles 2021

2.4.3 INDIGENOUS IDENTITY

The 2021 national census program reported that no persons in the District of Wells identified as Indigenous. However, the 2016 national census program reported that the District's population was approximately 6.5% Indigenous, with 15 persons identifying as Indigenous. This is slightly more than the 5.9% of the population of British Columbia that identified as Indigenous in both 2016 and 2021. Due to the District's low population, its census profile can be influenced by the census' 25% sampling method. The census also cautions users that estimates associated with Indigenous populations are more affected by the incomplete enumeration of certain settlements.

Table 2: Indigenous population.

INDIGENOUS IDENTITY	DISTRICT OF WELLS (2016)		DISTRICT OF WELLS (2021)		BRITISH COLUMBIA	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Population in Private Households by Indigenous Identity	230		160		4,915,945	
Indigenous identity	15	6.5%	0	0%	290,210	5.9%
Non-Indigenous identity	204	92%	155	96.9%	4,625,735	94.1%

Source: Statistics Canada Census Program, Census Profiles 2016, 2021.

Did you know?

Evidence of early Indigenous settlement in the region dates back over 10,000 years. Barkerville Historic Town and Park is located on the shared ancestral territories of the Dakelh (Carrier) and Secwepemctsin (Secwépemc or Shuswap)-speaking Peoples. Several other nations have history and territory in the area, including the Lhtako Dene Nation, Nazko First Nation, Lhoosk'uz Dené Nation, Ulkatcho First Nation, ?Esdilagh First Nation, Xat'süll First Nation, Simpcw First Nation, and Lheidli T'enneh First Nation.

2.4.5 EDUCATION

About half of Well's population has a post-secondary education: Based on 2021 census data, 22.7% of the population of the District of Wells does not have a certificate, diploma, or degree; 27.3% have a secondary school diploma or equivalent certificate; and 50% have a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree. Of the population with post-secondary education, 32.7% have a bachelor's degree or higher. Compared to the Province of British Columbia, there is a higher proportion of residents in the District of Wells with no education and slightly fewer with post-secondary education.

Table 3: Level of education.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (2021)	DISTRICT OF WELLS		BRITISH COLUMBIA	
	#	%	#	%
Population 25 to 64 years of age by Educational Attainment	110		2,691,860	
No certificate, diploma, or degree	25	22.7%	565,665	8.0%
Secondary (high) school diploma or equivalency certificate	30	27.3%	694,785	25.8%
Postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree	55	50%	1,780,415	66.1%
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	0	0%	217,350	8.1%
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	35	31.8%	507,405	18.8%
University certificate or diploma below bachelor level	0	0%	113,915	4.2%
University certificate, diploma, or degree at bachelor level or above	20	18.2%	941,735	35.0%
Source: Statistics Canada Census Program, Census Profiles 2021				

2.5 ECONOMY

The economy in the District of Wells is deeply tied to arts and tourism. At present, mining is a secondary but prominent industry. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, norms around remote work have shifted, and more people now have greater choices in where they can live and work. The relative affordability of housing in Wells may make it an attractive location for remote workers and could be an additional mechanism for attracting new residents. This section details Wells' current economic status. See the Economic Development Study (2024) for further analysis of Wells' economy.

2.5.1 PRIMARY SECTORS

The primary employment sectors in the District of Wells include the Sales and Service Industry, Forestry, Education, Government Services, Management and Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation. **Wells' proportion of jobs in the Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation sector account for 12.3% of the labour force** in the District of Wells, significantly more than the surrounding Cariboo Region (1.5%) and across the Province (4.2%).

Table 4: Labour force demographics.

LABOUR FORCE	DISTRICT OF WELLS	CARIBOO REGIONAL DISTRICT	BRITISH COLUMBIA
Sales and Services	33.3%	22.8%	25.1%
Trades	20.8%	24.5%	17.7%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	12.5%	1.5%	4.2%
Business, finance and administration	8.3%	11.8%	16.8%
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	8.3%	4.3%	7.9%
Source: Statistics Canada Census Program, Census Profiles 2021			

2.5.2 EMPLOYMENT RATES

The District of Wells' unemployment rates are high and fluctuate more than the Cariboo Region and Province: In 2016, the District of Wells' unemployment rate was 15%, compared to 11% in the Cariboo Region and 7% in the Province, according to Census data collected by Statistics Canada. Unemployment rates in the Cariboo Region and the Province stayed relatively constant between 2016 and 2021, while in the District of Wells, unemployment rates

fluctuated from 15% (2016) to 38%% (2021), as shown below (Source: Statistics Canada Census Program, Census Profiles 2006, 2011, 2016).

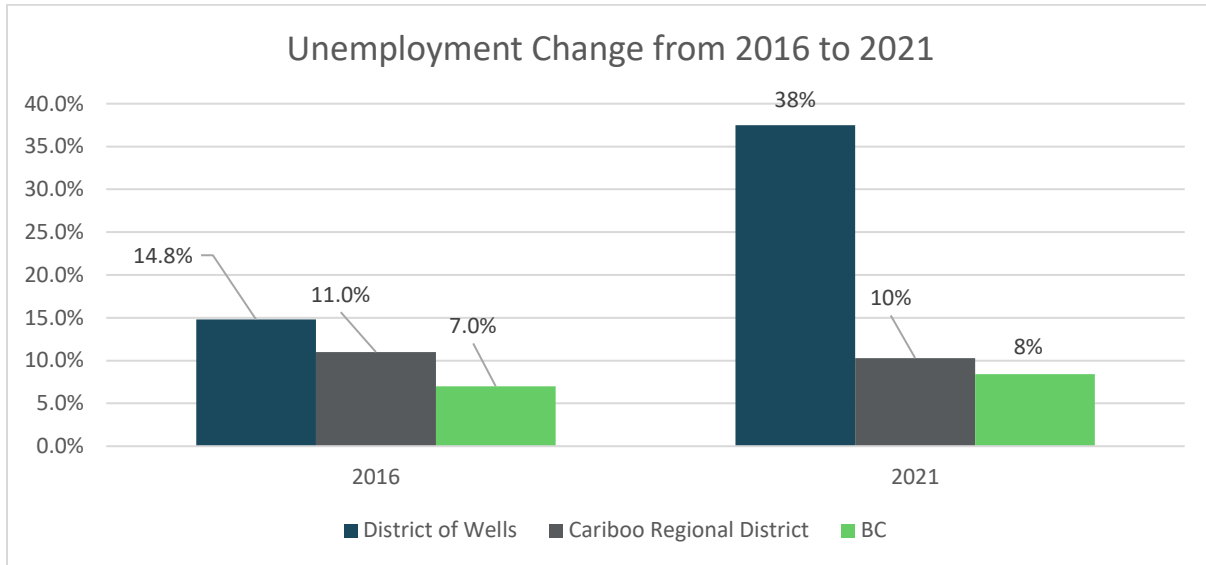


Figure 6: Unemployment Rates 2016 – 2021

2.5.3 HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Households in The District of Wells have a lower median income than the Cariboo Region and Province:

Region and Province: In 2021, the District of Wells households earned a median income of \$36,667, compared to \$72,000 in the Cariboo Region and \$85,000 in the Province (Source: Statistics Canada Census Program, Census Profiles 2011, 2016, 2021, District of Wells 2021 Income data provided by Sitewise).

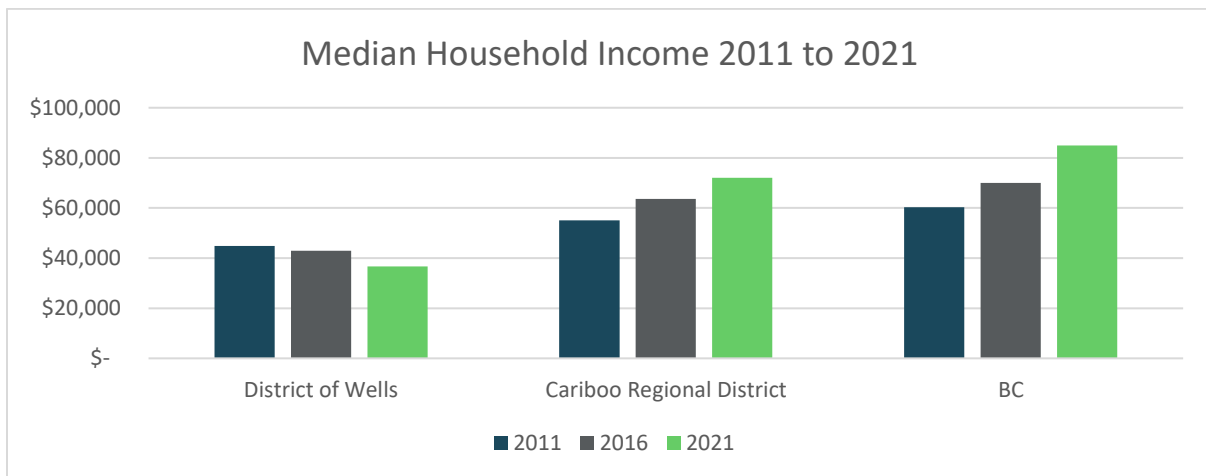


Figure 7: Changes in Household Income Levels (2011 – 2021)

2.5.4 TOURISM

Many District of Wells residents are employed in arts and culture professions, directly or indirectly tied to the local tourism industry. Barkerville, Bowron Lakes, trail systems, art events and festivals, and other attractions bring visitors to the area who contribute to the economy and support local businesses.

i. Visitor Volumes

Much of Wells' economy is highly dependent on tourism. Local businesses rely heavily on visitors coming to town to participate in the community's festivals or visit other local attractions. However, various factors have made visitor volumes difficult to gauge in recent years. Before 2015, the Visitor Information Centre (VIC) was a reliable source of visitor information. However, the VIC recently stopped selling tickets for the Barkerville Historic Town, which has had a noticeable effect on the number of people stopping at the centre. Attractions like the Barkerville Historic Town and Bowron Lakes Provincial Park do have visitor statistic programs, so it is possible to get a sense of how visitor volumes are changing in the community. By analyzing this data in aggregate, a downward trend in visitor volumes can be observed in recent years.

Possible contributors to the decline in visitor volumes include a broader decline in tourism in 2015 resulting from a small recession and fires that closed Highway 97 and restricted visitor movements in 2017. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in another global setback for the tourism industry, including in Wells. The timing of these larger-scale events has created a difficult situation for the local tourism industry, and there is an opportunity for the community to communicate to travellers that Wells is open and ready to welcome them back.

Did you know?

The District of Wells' economy is deeply tied to arts and culture. As many as 13% of jobs in the District of Wells are in arts, entertainment, and recreation. That is much more than in the Province, where only 4% of jobs are in this sector. The District of Wells' prominent arts community is represented by organizations such as the Sunset Theatre and Island Mountain Arts, the latter of which has been operating in the District of Wells since 1977.

ii. Barkerville Historic Town and Park

The Barkerville Historic Town and Park is also a significant draw, seeing an average of 60,000 visitors per year (pre-2019). Barkerville does see significant visitor volumes each year; however, those on their way to Barkerville may not be stopping at the visitor centre to be counted. As many of the staff in the park reside in Wells, Barkerville's successes and economic impact are important contributors and attractions for the District of Wells.



iii. Bowron Lakes Provincial Park

Bowron Lakes Provincial Park is famous for its week-long canoe circuit. The park attracts visitors from all over the world and has become an important part of the tourism landscape for the District of Wells. Historically, the park received a relatively stable number of visitors per year. Bowron Lakes also has a reservation system that limits the number of people who can travel the canoe circuit at any given time. However, visitor counts for the park show a decline in visitation after 2015, similar to other attractions in the area.



2.5.5 THE ARTS & ARTISTS

Wells is known across Canada and the larger arts context as a big-little hub of multi-disciplinary arts events. Whether in visual arts, media, music, theatre or literature, Wells attracts creators and audiences alike. In some cases, permanently. The Wells arts community is a connecting point for new experiences and ideas.

2.5.6 THE WELLS MUSEUM

The Wells Historical Society has been around informally since the 1950s but was incorporated officially in 1972.

It is dedicated to collecting, storing, and displaying artifacts, photos, and stories relating to the history of



Wells. Today, the Wells Museum is housed in one of the few remaining original Island Mountain Mine buildings.

2.5.7 WELLS-BARKERVILLE COMMUNITY FOREST

In 2011, the Wells-Barkerville Community Forest Ltd. negotiated with the Province of British Columbia the establishment of a 4,300-hectare tenure, which lies approximately 400 metres north of Wells. This agreement for forest management runs for 25 years.

The Wells-Barkerville Community Forest Ltd. (WBCF) is a corporation with a single shareholder, the District of Wells. It is governed by a diverse Board of up to seven Directors from the industry and the community. The WBCF Board is committed to managing the forest in a sustainable way while also enabling a multitude of benefits for the community.

Being right on the edge of town, the WBCF contains some of the area's recreation trails, forms part of the town's viewscape, and is a popular non-timber forest product harvesting area. It also contains one local home. The WBCF is committed to being open, providing information to the community, listening to public input, and partnering with local trails and activity user groups to facilitate user growth.

As a community forest defined by the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA), WBCF is required to develop a current forest management plan that outlines its activities and plan for harvest. In this sense, the primary driver for a community forest is to generate local economic benefit from forestry activity (harvesting) from the community forest area. Plans are approved and reviewed regularly with the Ministry of Forests.

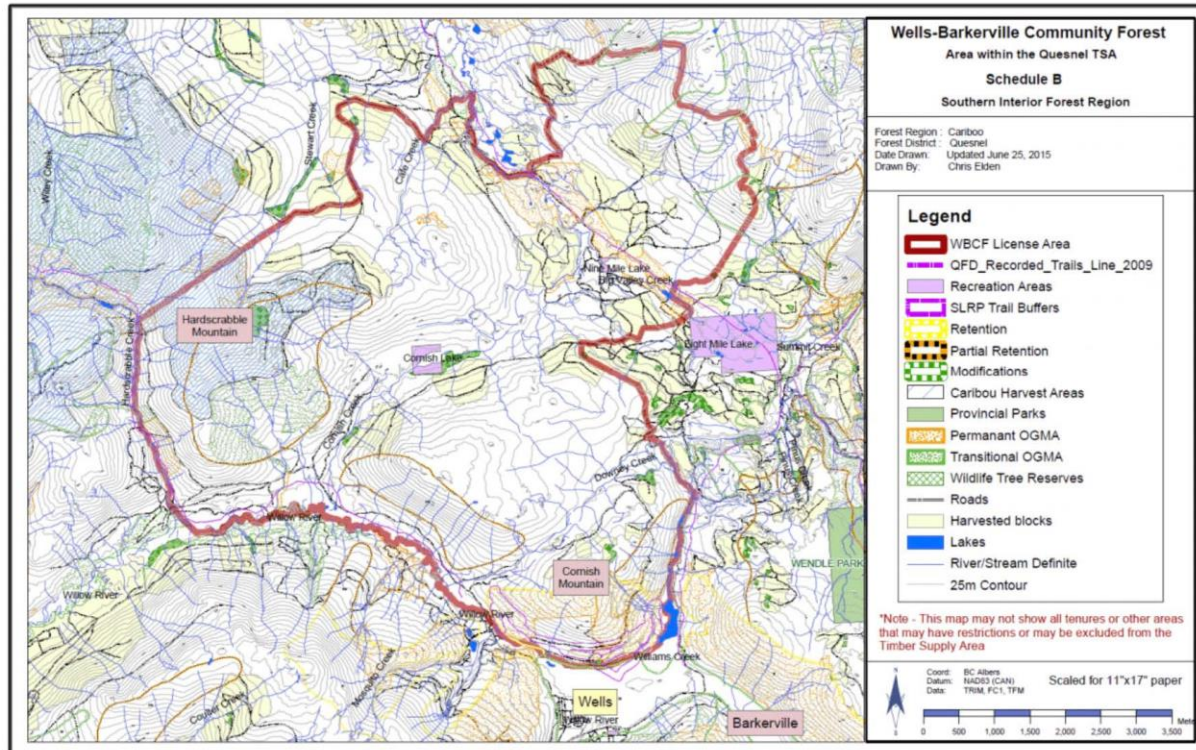


Figure 11: Wells-Barkerville Community Forest Area

2.6 INFRASTRUCTURE & UTILITIES

2.6.1 WATER & SEWER

Water and sewer servicing within the District of Wells includes a water treatment and distribution system and a sanitary sewer collection and treatment system.

Currently, the water system services the community from Burnett Avenue and Dawson Street in the northwest to Lowhee Drive in the southeast. A groundwater well and water treatment plant are located at Ski Hill Road and Solibakke Drive. Treated water is distributed directly into the water treatment plant's distribution system, where community services and a storage reservoir are connected. The storage reservoir is located on the hill to the community's west, generally in line with Baker Street. The water system has only one pressure zone. The new water tower is planned to be built in the area of the existing water tower.

The sanitary sewer system is comprised of a gravity main collection system servicing the community, generally from Burnett Avenue and Dawson Street in the northwest to Lowhee Drive in the southeast, similar to the water system. The gravity main drains towards a sanitary lift station located at Blair Avenue and Dawson Street, where sewage is pumped up Hard Scrabble Road to the wastewater treatment lagoon. The single-cell lagoon is aerated and continuously discharges by gravity to the Willow River. A weir structure is used to control the level of the lagoon, and flow is monitored across a v-notch weir. The District of Wells is currently experiencing issues with the flow monitoring system. The aeration system also

experiences challenges, where the equipment frequently stops running and must be restarted by operations staff. These aging and problematic systems are currently being assessed and upgraded.

2.6.2 ROADS & DRAINAGE

The road network is comprised of both paved and gravel roads, with most roads being gravel.

Drainage is mainly conveyed overland, and there are a few catch basins that outlet to the ditch, but no other underground storm drainage system. Ditches and culverts manage drainage in some areas of the community, while other areas have no defined drainage system. Some catch basins exist that outlet to the ground.

2.6.3 ELECTRICITY

Single-phase overhead power runs down Highway 26 from Quesnel to service the community. The power service is not looped such that power is supplied only from one direction. An interruption to this power service line means a power outage in the District of Wells. In the future, the District of Wells' electrical infrastructure could be expanded as the proposed mining project plans to expand the availability of three-phase power to its own operations. This expansion could include adding three-phase power to the town via a 25-kilovolt line and a dedicated three-phase 69-kilovolt line for the mine. Without these expansions, limited electrical capacity remains to service new development. Developments at nearby tourism draws like Barkerville Historic Town, Bowron Lakes and Troll Resort are also limited by the electrical capacity of the existing BC Hydro infrastructure.

2.6.4 COMMUNICATIONS/INTERNET

High-speed internet was announced for the District of Wells in 2018 to be provided by Telus/ABC Communications. There is potential to expand a fibre optic line from Barkerville Historic Town and Park to the District of Wells. A new cell tower was also introduced in 2022, providing coverage for cell phones in the community. This upgrade offers a new method of communication to residents and is also a welcome amenity for visitors to the community.

2.7 GROWTH PROJECTIONS & FUTURE LAND NEEDS

Several factors, including the continued aging of the population, the availability of housing and essential services including education and healthcare, and the success of proposed industrial initiatives such as the proposed mining project, will influence future population growth in the District of Wells. The District also encompasses a large land area that could host any number of opportunities.

Potential projects and developments that could affect the future of the District of Wells include:

- Proposed and potential mining projects
- Large forestry projects
- Potential ski resort or lodge (current and future expansions of Troll Resort)
- Further development and increased popularity of the Purden Connector Road
- Destination trails and recreation projects

Any one of these opportunities or a combination of these outcomes could significantly influence the number of full-time or seasonal residents and potential stress on infrastructure such as water, sewer, or roads in the District of Wells.

2.7.1 GROWTH SCENARIOS

Wells has two main components of its local economy that have the potential to influence growth and land needs in the community. Wells was founded to support the local mining community, which is still reflected in the town's architecture today. Since its main mining employers wound down operations many decades ago, the local arts, culture, and recreation industries have come to define the community. There is the potential for a new industrial mining project to influence future development and growth in the District of Wells. The proposed mining project is projected to add 460 direct jobs, including approximately 60 professional and administrative jobs that are most likely to be based in the community. This one proposed project would likely have the biggest year-round impact on the population of all the potential future developments. However, seasonal industries like Barkerville and Troll Resort also bring in employees at different times of the year and are anticipated to have growing and varied housing requirements. The growth scenarios presented here are designed to illustrate the potential scale of influence of the proposed mining project for planning purposes.

Two growth scenarios have been developed to illustrate potential development in Wells. Each scenario provides details on population growth, the need for housing, and land needs. Scenario 1 illustrates a future where Wells continues on its current path with no major changes to its current context or economy. The second scenario focuses on the potential implications of new growth industries like mining and seasonal culture and recreation developments. Mining and seasonal operations will have different implications for growth, but as both will happen concurrently, they have been combined into one growth scenario. The majority of

mine employees will live and work in camps and will likely have little interaction with the community and impact on the housing supply.

Similarly, summer operations at Barkerville and other high-season activities draw seasonal employees to the community from May to October. During the winter months, operations at Troll Resort could also draw in employees.

The potential addition of new community members will have critical impacts and require upgrades to the existing power lines. Whether the current mining project is built or a similar project moves ahead, the scale of impacts will likely affect how the District plans for services in the community. To summarize, the scenarios are described below:

Scenario 1: Business as Usual	Scenario 2: Enhanced Growth
The District of Wells continues its current path of modest population growth.	A new mine is built, resulting in new full-time residents, working professionals, and administrative jobs. Seasonal tourism operations may also increase and expand operations.

2.7.1.A Impacts of Added Employment

It is important to factor in the three types of employment to model the potential population, employment, and growth impacts of the Enhanced Growth Scenario.

- **Direct Jobs** – Employment at major employers such as a seasonal tourism business or mine.³
- **Indirect Jobs** – Contractor jobs for those who work with major employers. Many contractor jobs are specialized and do not translate to long-term residency.
- **Induced Jobs** – Jobs not associated with major employers but that support population and activity growth.⁴

³ <https://seureservercdn.net/104.238.68.196/f5q.857.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Cariboo-Gold-DPD-October-2020.pdf>

⁴ <https://pages.uoregon.edu/rgp/PPPM613/CommEconAnalysis.htm>

Table 5: Employment projections under an enhanced growth scenario.

EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS		SCENARIO 2: ENHANCED GROWTH
Direct Employment		
Wells Professional and Administrative Jobs at Proposed Mine		62
Projected Proportion of Export Jobs <i>(employees do not live in the District)</i>		80 – 89%
Projected Proportion of In-Town Jobs <i>(employees live in the District)</i>		10 – 20%
Export Jobs		170 – 191
In-Town jobs		21 – 42
Indirect Employment		
Contractors		50
Induced Employment		
Employment Multiplier <i>(total direct jobs per export job)</i>		0.32 – 0.37
Induced Jobs <i>(in-town jobs * multiplier)</i>		7 – 16
Total Projected In-Town Jobs (Induced and Direct)		28 – 58

The table above illustrates the scenario of export/in-town employment. In this scenario, 10% to 20% of employees live in the District of Wells. This scenario also illustrates indirect and induced job numbers. Indirect job numbers have been kept constant as contractor jobs tend to be specialized and task-specific and do not tend to translate into long-term residency. Induced demand for jobs, as described above, is a measure of all other jobs that may be expected in a community due to the presence of a new large industrial operator.

Only the direct employment numbers will be used for the remainder of the growth scenario discussion. While induced jobs are interesting in illustrating potential employment, how that translates to real community impacts is less certain.

2.7.1.B Household Assumptions

New employees who choose to live in the District of Wells will have a range of housing needs. Some new residents will move to the District of Wells with their families, while others will only seek housing for themselves.

Maintaining a good variety in the local housing stock is key to attracting families and workers to make their home in the District of Wells. Having various housing options and choices also aids affordability for new and current residents. This is an important factor highlighted in other

communities, such as Sparwood, BC, in their 2019 Sparwood Livability Study.⁵ As the primary source of full-time employment is likely to be related to mining, other small mining communities were chosen for comparison.

Table 6: Household size comparison.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE (OCCUPANTS)	DISTRICT OF WELLS	DISTRICT OF SPARWOOD	DISTRICT OF ELKFORD	DISTRICT OF LOGAN LAKE	AVERAGE
One	39%	30%	27%	29%	29%
Two	43%	37%	37%	48%	41%
Three	9%	14%	15%	11%	13%
Four	4%	14%	14%	8%	12%
Five or More	4%	5%	7%	4%	5%
	100%	100%	100%	100%	

It is valuable to examine the household composition in other mining communities to model a potential need for variety in housing choices. The table above illustrates the proportion of households of different sizes in the District of Wells, Sparwood, Elkford and Logan Lake. New residents moving to the District of Wells may come alone or bring their families. Single- versus multiple-occupant households may have different preferences and needs, and this distinction will inform future potential residential land needs in the District. Other mining towns average about 29% single-occupant households and 71% multiple-occupant households (Statistics Canada, 2016).

Using the ratio of single- versus multiple-occupant households, it is possible to model the potential population impacts for the two growth scenarios. The District could expect to accommodate 10 to 98 new residents by 2025, depending on the proportion of new mine employees that choose to live in town.

⁵ <https://sparwood.civicweb.net/document/87409>

2.7.1.C Population Projections

The population projections illustrate how the assumptions from the different growth scenarios might affect population growth in the District of Wells should a new mine open and existing tourism operations expand their offerings in 2025. The population growth rate is designed to reflect current growth projections for the District of Wells from BC statistics. Although the District of Wells population has slightly declined over the last two census periods, long-term projections still forecast modest growth.

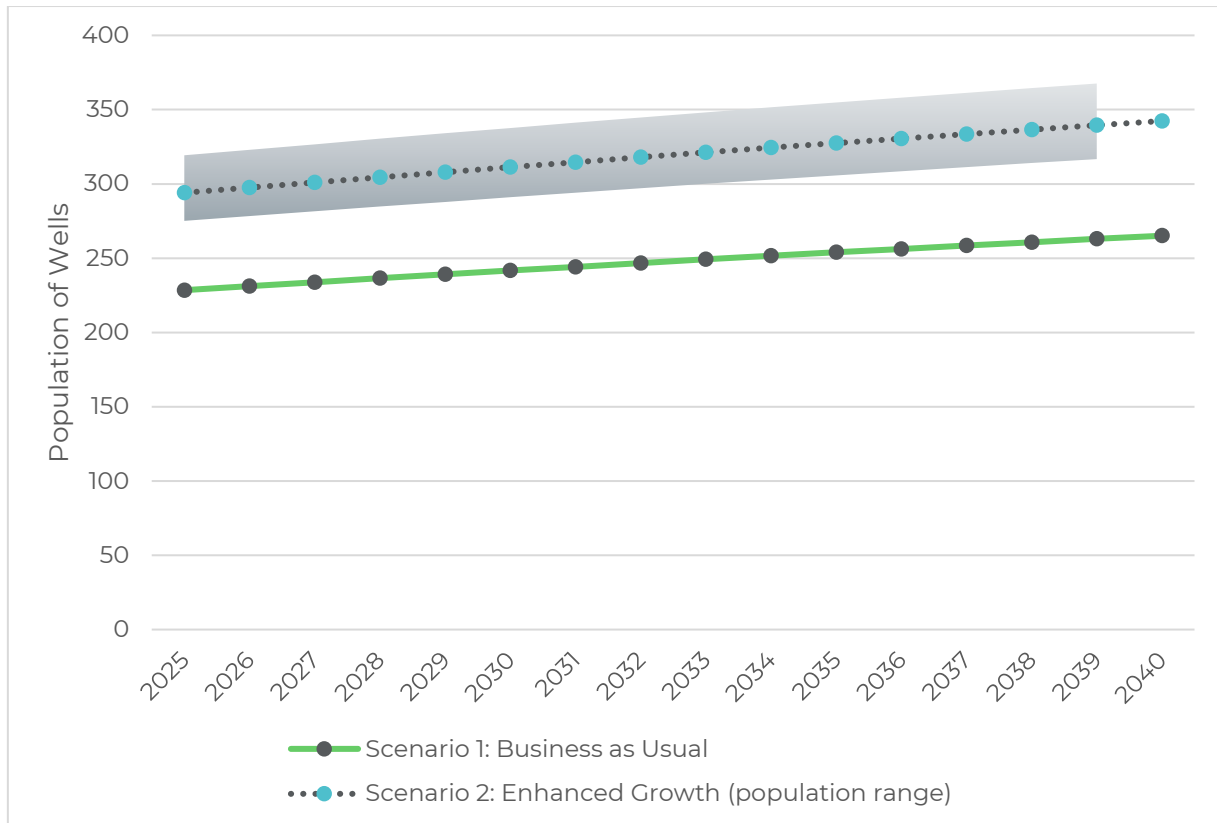


Figure 12: Scenario-Based Population Projections (2025 – 2040)

Table 7: Scenario-based population projections (2015 – 2040).

YEAR	SCENARIO 1: BUSINESS AS USUAL	SCENARIO 2: ENHANCED GROWTH
-	-	Proportion of new employees living in the District of Wells (10 – 20%)
2015	228	228
2016	227	227
2017	228	228
2018	230	230
2019	231	231
2020	231	231
2021	218	218
2022	221	221
2023	223	223
2024	226	226
2025	228	272 – 316
2026	231	275 – 320
2027	234	279 – 323
2028	236	282 – 327
2029	239	285 – 331
2030	242	288 – 334
2031	244	291 – 338
2032	247	294 – 342
2033	249	297 – 345
2034	252	300 – 349
2035	254	303 – 352
2036	256	306 – 355
2037	259	309 – 358
2038	261	312 – 362
2039	263	314 – 365
2040	265	317 – 368

2.7.1.D Households and Household Size

The average household size in the District of Wells is just under two persons (1.87),⁶ and there are approximately 124 households in the community. By 2040, it is estimated that 22 to 81 additional homes will be required in the District of Wells to accommodate future growth. It is assumed that new residents to the District of Wells will have a household composition that reflects the provincial average of 2.49 people per household, rather than the average for the District of Wells. Under Scenario 1: Business as Usual, where no mine is opened, only 18 homes will be required. However, many more homes may be necessary in the Enhanced Growth scenario. The proportion of workers who live in town versus neighbouring communities will significantly impact the number of homes needed and the subsequent servicing needs (e.g., roads, sanitary, water, sewer).

Table 8: Scenario-based housing needs (2020 – 2040).

YEAR	AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE WELLS (2021)	AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE BC (2021)	HOUSEHOLDS - SCENARIO 1: BUSINESS AS USUAL	HOUSEHOLDS - SCENARIO 2: ENHANCED GROWTH
2020 (Existing Homes)	1.9	2.49	118	118
2025	1.9	2.49	120	145 – 170
2030	1.9	2.49	127	154 – 180
2035	1.9	2.49	134	162 – 190
2040	1.9	2.49	140	169 – 198
Estimated New Homes Required 2040			22	52 – 81

Assuming an Enhanced Growth scenario beginning in 2025, there would be a significant and immediate need for housing in the District of Wells. Depending on how many workers choose to live in town (10% – 20%), the need for new housing could range from 52 to 81 additional homes. This is much greater than the number of homes required should Wells continue to grow at its current pace.

⁶ Environics 2023

New housing should be a mix of multi-family units and single-family units. To meet the housing needs in the District of Wells, it is estimated that between 15 to 23 multi-family units and 37 to 58 single-family units would be required in an Enhanced Growth scenario.




Table 9: Projected housing needs by type of dwelling (2040).

PROJECTED HOUSING NEEDS BY UNIT TYPE	PROPORTIONAL DEMAND FOR UNIT TYPES	HOUSEHOLDS - SCENARIO 1: BUSINESS AS USUAL	HOUSEHOLDS - SCENARIO 2: ENHANCED GROWTH
Estimated New Homes Required 2040	-	22	52 – 81
Multi-Family Units	29%	6	15 – 23
Single-Family Units	71%	16	37 – 58

2.7.1.E Housing Density

Various housing forms have different space requirements. In the District of Wells, current lot sizes and housing types are spaced at approximately four units per acre (UPA). The table below illustrates neighbourhoods with existing and slightly higher densities. Conversations about neighbourhood density must be informed by the availability of land, the community's desires, and the municipality's ability to build and maintain infrastructure associated with new neighbourhoods (e.g., roads, water, sewer, etc.). Lower-density development is expensive to service and maintain, which can result in increased property taxes for residents. The existing OCP envisions most new growth areas in the District of Wells as multi-family developments scaled to fit the context. For this exercise, multi-unit residential has been interpreted to mean duplex housing that can be scaled to fit within most existing residential areas.

Table 10: Example housing types and densities.

	THE DISTRICT OF WELLS (PRESENT)	TYPICAL SUBURB	MULTI-UNIT RESIDENTIAL (DUPLEX)
Units per Acre (UPA)	4.1	5	10
Units per Hectare (UPH)	10.1	12.4	24.7
Context			
Description	Present-day lot sizes and configuration.	Comparable lot sizes to present-day District of Wells. All lots have a house on them.	Duplex housing ⁷ on slightly larger lots.

⁷ <https://www.cityofeastlansing.com/DocumentCenter/View/1550/Visualizing-Density---Lincoln-Institute-of-Land-Policy-PDF>

2.7.1.F Projected Land Needs

To estimate the future land needs for the District of Wells based on the two growth scenarios, we can use the density examples shown above and apply them to the projected demand for new households. The land requirements are summarized below.

Table 11: Projected residential land needs.

RESIDENTIAL LAND REQUIREMENTS FOR FUTURE GROWTH 2040	REQUIRED HOUSING UNITS	UNITS PER ACRE	UNITS PER HECTARE	REQUIRED RESIDENTIAL LAND AREA (ACRES)	REQUIRED RESIDENTIAL LAND AREA (HECTARES)
Scenario 1: Business as Usual	22				
Continued District of Wells Development Pattern	22	4.1	10.1	5.4	2.2
Total				5.4	2.2
Scenario 2: Enhanced Growth	52 – 81				
Multi-Family Units	15 – 23	10.0	24.7	1.5 – 2.3	0.6 – 0.9
Single-Family Units	37 – 58	5.0	12.4	7.4 – 11.5	3.0 – 4.7
Total				8.9 – 13.9	3.6 – 5.6

Another way to illustrate potential land needs is to imagine housing demand in a uniform way. The table below illustrates housing demand for each scenario if it were to proceed as either all duplex or all multifamily townhouse development.

Table 12: Projected land needs by housing type.

	Population Growth to 2040	Household Size	Housing Need (units)	Land Needs		
				Duplex (10 UPA)		Townhouse (19 UPA) – Fourplex
Scenario 1: Business as Usual	42	1.9	22	2.2	OR	1.2
Scenario 2: Enhanced Growth	94	1.9	52 – 81	5.2 – 8.1	OR	2.7 – 4.3

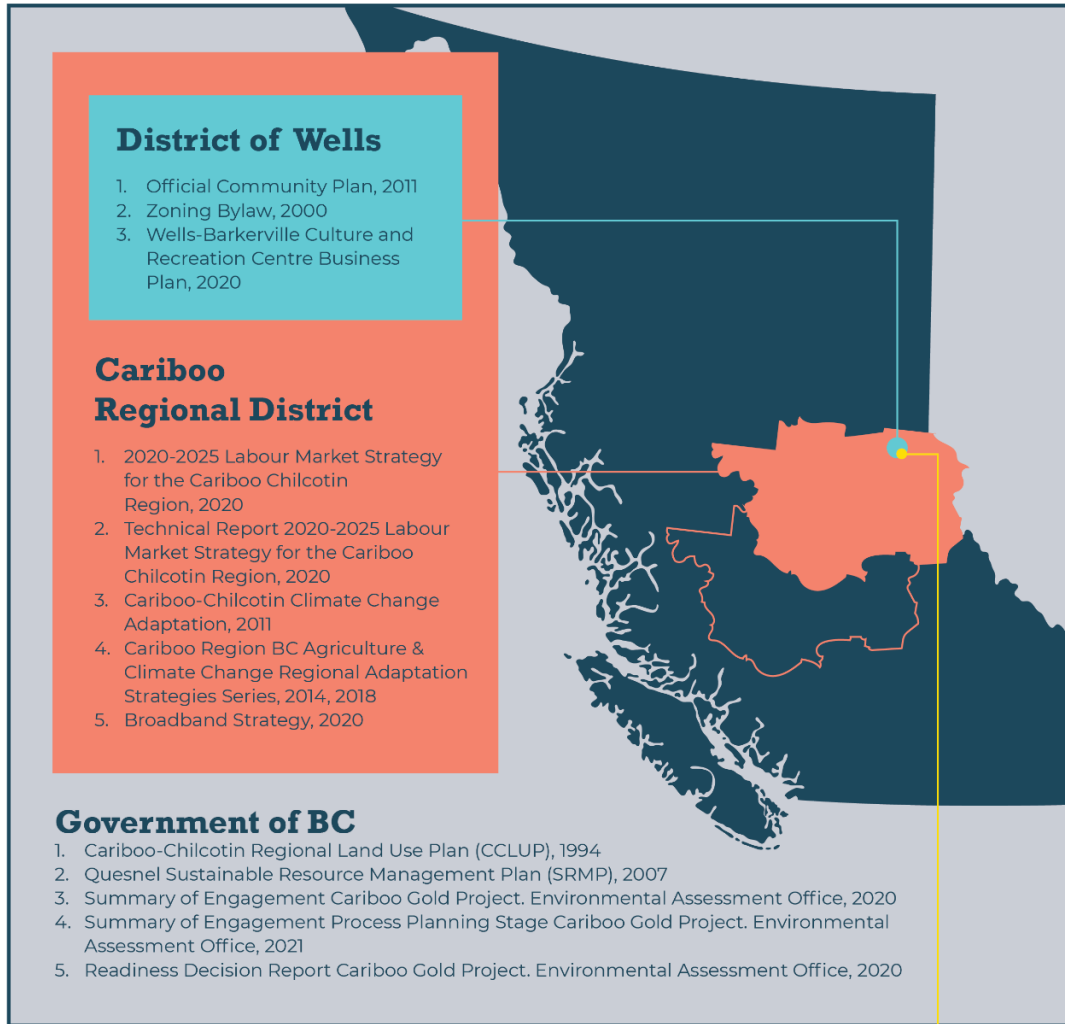
As the table illustrates, higher-density housing forms require less land area overall. Housing demand is modest, even at the high end of the projections, which would translate to a relatively minor demand for new residential land.

Depending on the density of new development, the proportion of potential new workers that move to the District of Wells, and the performance of seasonal industries, there could be demand for between 3.6 and 5.6 hectares of new residential lands. The current OCP designates several undeveloped areas for both future multi-family residential and future rural residential development.

Under the current growth scenarios, there appears to be sufficient land to accommodate the new growth under current densities. However, there may be demand for a mixture of housing types in the District of Wells, including rural residential, multi-unit, and single-unit residential development. Higher demand for rural residential lots could pose issues for the District in the future in terms of servicing costs, maintenance, and land supply.

2.8 RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER PLANS & STUDIES

The development of this OCP has involved reviewing and considering recommendations and findings identified in the following relevant planning documents:



Academic Publication and Studies

1. Wells Corridor Analysis. University of Northern British Columbia School of Environmental Planning, 2017
2. Wells-Barkerville Community Forest Mapping Project. University of Northern British Columbia. Christopher Morgan and Pamela Wright, 2020
3. Climate Summary Cariboo. Pacific Impacts Climate Consortium. University of Victoria, 2013

Proposed Mining Project

1. NI 43-101 Technical Report – Feasibility Study for the Cariboo Gold Project, 2022
2. Supplemental Information for Cariboo Gold Project Description. Barkerville Gold Mines, 2020
3. Cariboo Gold Project Detailed Project Description. Barkerville Gold Mines Ltd., 2020
4. Cariboo Gold Project Application for Environmental Assessment Certificate. Barkerville Gold Mines Ltd., 2021

3.0 THE PLANNING PROCESS

In January 2021, the District of Wells began a process to revise their 2010 Official Community Plan (OCP). The Planning process took place in a series of five phases:

1. Background Research, Mapping and Planning
2. Engagement #1: Values and Priorities
3. Engagement #2: Vision, Issues and Growth
4. Engagement #3: Draft Plan
5. Finalize the Revised OCP

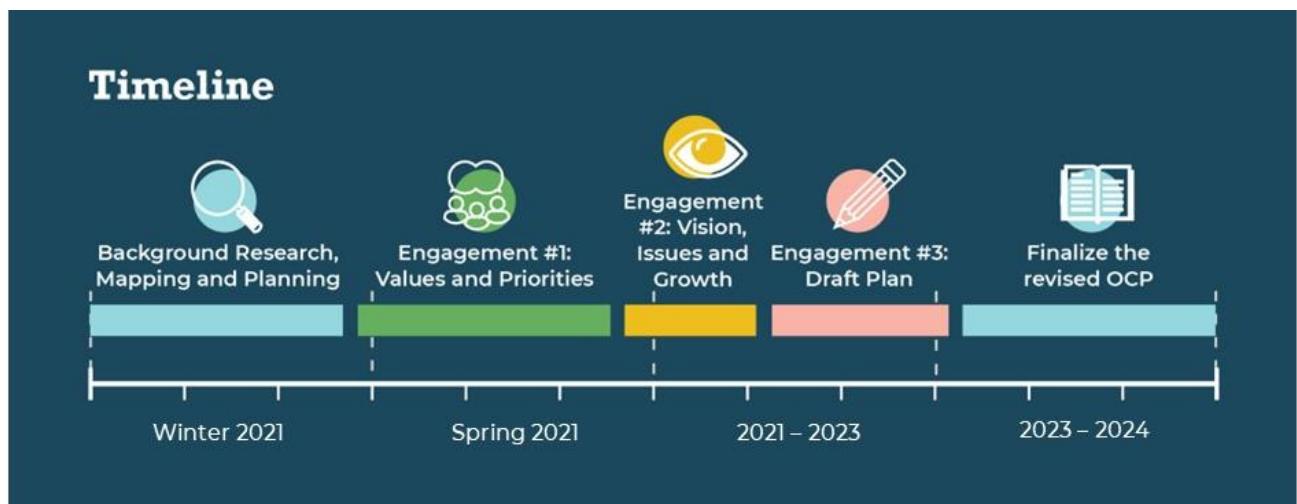


Figure 13: Official Community Plan Development Timeline

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most public engagement activities were conducted online. Provincial Health Orders placed limits on gatherings sporadically throughout the process, and periodic outbreaks in the community led to decreased community comfort with in-person activities. However, the project team was able to leverage advancements in video conferencing technology and put considerable effort into engaging the community through the project website and social media throughout the process. In addition, efforts were made to have physically-distanced engagement materials present in the community through a series of sounding boards, mailouts, and various digital activities and resources.

3.1.1 PHASE 1 – BACKGROUND RESEARCH

To set the stage for the development of the OCP, background research was conducted on the history of the District of Wells, the current context of the community, and ideas for the future. This information was summarized in the **District of Wells: Past, Present & Future Official Community Plan Background Report** that was shared with the community.

The report includes an analysis of data for the 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2021 Census periods, which included comparing the District of Wells statistics to the Cariboo Regional District and the Province of British Columbia.

The report is organized into the following sections:

- **Wells Past:** A summary of the District of Wells Indigenous and modern history.
- **Wells Present:** A community profile including demographic information and maps identifying various existing conditions in the District of Wells.
- **Wells Future:** Population projections for growth scenarios and a summary of draft principles for the revised OCP.

3.1.2 PHASE 2 – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT #1

Engagement #1: Values and Priorities. Community engagement is an essential part of revising an OCP. For this work, the consulting team worked with the District of Wells Community Vision & Planning Select Committee to develop an engagement strategy to reach as many residents and stakeholders as possible. The Committee was established in 2020 with the goal of supporting the District in making all feasible efforts to solicit community members for their future vision and input in the planning of the Wells Community.



The engagement process was designed to achieve the following specific outcomes:

- Share information with the public, elected officials, and stakeholders about the scope, purpose, and value of an OCP and how it differs from the mine review process.
- Provide a neutral forum for residents to express their desires and “dreams” for the future of the District of Wells from now to 2040.
- Gain an understanding of the various issues and opportunities in the District of Wells.
- Ensure that the OCP process is separate and distinguished from Environmental.
- Reach residents who are “harder to reach” or less likely to engage.

The engagement process began during COVID-19. Therefore, Engagements #1 and #2 were limited to online and telephone-based engagement. **Engagement #1: Values and Priorities** consisted of the following activities:

- Project Website
- Project Team tour of public infrastructure in the District of Wells and Cariboo Gold project site
- Community survey (110 responses)
- Information packages sent to every home in the District of Wells
- Sounding boards in the Jack O’ Clubs
- Photo contest
- Mapping exercise with the District of Wells School students
- Two Wells Vision & Planning Select Committee Meetings

Findings from the first round of engagement are summarized in the **What We Heard Report: Official Community Plan Engagement Summary** that was shared with the community.

3.1.3 PHASE 3 – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT #2

Engagement #2: Vision, Issues and Growth included a Kitchen Table Update where residents could join the consulting team on Zoom. The session was planned with input from the Wells Vision and Planning Select Committee. 46 residents joined the Zoom meeting. The consulting team shared key findings from Engagement #1 and the OCP Background Report, including information on population projections and potential growth opportunities. Using Zoom’s poll feature, residents provided feedback on the draft principles for the OCP.

3.1.4 PHASE 4 – DRAFTING THE PLAN

Engagement #3: Drafting the Plan occurred in the summer and fall of 2021. Throughout the summer, the project team drafted the OCP and, in the Fall, began reaching out to specific stakeholders to fill gaps in information. Throughout this period, updates were shared via social media to remind residents that the process was ongoing and to share interesting facts uncovered through the planning process. The draft plan was shared with the public on October 12, 2021. Changes to the mayor and Council shortly after the draft OCP’s release introduced a delay to the process. However, feedback gathered from the draft was incorporated, and a new draft was created for referrals in September 2022. The community feedback on the draft OCP was collected between October 12 and October 31, 2021. A total of 22 community members submitted feedback, which informed the continued development of the draft OCP. The respondents were most concerned with potential mining and other heavy industrial operations, tourism and culture, housing, retaining Wells’ historic character, and parks and trails development.

3.1.5 PHASE 5 – FINALIZING THE PLAN

The planning process concluded by incorporating feedback from the community, staff, and Council. The plan was then referred to several other stakeholders, First Nations and government agencies per provincial legislation. A final draft was compiled based on feedback received from the referral, and Council adopted the Official Community Plan.

4.0 LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

The OCP sets out the vision for how land will be used in the District of Wells in the years ahead. This is achieved through land use designations that are defined and identified in the OCP.

Error! Reference source not found.s A and B illustrate the types of land uses the OCP supports for future development. The categories of land use include:

- Low Density Residential
- Medium Density Residential
- Commercial
- Residential-Commercial (Mixed-Use)
- Institutional
- Light Industrial
- Heavy Industrial
- Urban Parks
- Rural and Outdoor Recreation
- Commercial Recreation

This section includes a description of each land use and Objectives and Policies for each land use category.

4.1.1 GENERAL LAND USE OBJECTIVES

General land use policies are designed to apply to all land in the District regardless of its land use designation. These policies provide a framework for achieving community goals in all areas of the District. It is the objective of Council to:

- .1 Retain and enhance the historical and eclectic character of the District of Wells.
- .2 Retain and enhance development around Pooley Street and the Barkerville Highway as core commercial areas that allow for a mix of commercial, residential, retail, service, and tourism-oriented uses.
- .3 Provide flexibility for unique development proposals while maintaining clarity on the core values and vision for future development.
- .4 Provide sufficient land to meet anticipated needs and demands for residential development.
- .5 Provide sufficient land for industrial use.
- .6 Support land development and public investments in transportation infrastructure that allows the District of Wells to continue to be walkable, accessible, and safe for pedestrians of all abilities in a growing community.
- .7 Accommodate a mix of housing types and densities within all residential areas.

4.1.2 A NOTE ABOUT CONTAMINATED SITES

The District of Wells has a long history of mining and related land use that dates back over 100 years. In the community's early days, environmental regulations were either absent or insufficient to adequately manage the long-term impacts of the activities. As such, much of the land base in the District contains some level of soil contamination. In conjunction with

provincial and private agencies, the District has updated its inventory of contaminated sites. This map is provided in Schedule C.

The District of Wells can designate certain lands for future uses in the OCP. However, contaminated sites are governed by the Provincial Contaminated Sites Regulation,⁸ and the Environmental Management Act, which is designed to protect British Columbians from the effects of chemical contamination and to protect the environment. This regulation has been developed in concordance with Health Canada regulations, which define contaminated sites as those on which substances occur at concentrations:

1. above background (normally occurring) levels and pose or are likely to pose an immediate or long-term hazard to human health or the environment; or
2. exceeding levels specified in policies and regulations.⁹

Remediation of contaminated sites is triggered by the redevelopment, subdivision, or other change of use of a site. The applicant may be required to submit a Site Disclosure Statement to the District detailing the potential extent of contamination. Site Disclosure Statements are forwarded to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, which will work with the applicant to determine the next steps for the site. The next steps may include remediation plans, agreements, or other arrangements depending on the proposed use and level of contamination.

⁸ https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/375_96_01

⁹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/environmental-workplace-health/contaminated-sites.html>

4.2 LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL

Low Density Residential Areas primarily consist of single-family homes, duplexes, suites, or carriage homes in the District of Wells. Most housing in the District of Wells is currently low density in nature, and residents have communicated a desire to preserve this housing form. However, Low Density Residential Areas will permit a variety of other housing forms, such as duplexes, secondary suites, carriage houses, and tiny homes, as permitted by the BC Building Code. Many existing Low Density Residential Areas are adjacent to existing neighbourhoods within the Wells Townsite area. New Low Density Residential development will be developed in a style and scale similar to existing residential development in the District of Wells.

4.2.1 OBJECTIVES

It is the objective of Council to:

- .1 Support a range of housing types to accommodate the needs of current and future residents.
- .2 Preserve the District of Wells' compact form for increased community cohesion and efficient infrastructure investments and maintenance.

4.2.2 POLICIES

It is the policy of Council to:

- .1 Support the development of Low Density Residential neighbourhoods and subdivisions within areas designated Low Density Residential on Schedules A **Error! Reference source not found.**
- .2 Permit the following housing forms in Low Density Residential Areas:
 - a. Single detached homes;
 - b. Secondary suites within single detached homes; and
 - c. Duplex homes.
- .3 Permit the development of detached suites and carriage homes (suites above detached garages) where lot sizes are appropriate and sufficient parking is provided to meet the needs of the uses on the property.
- .4 Permit triplexes and fourplexes in Low Density Residential Areas where lot sizes are appropriate, the proposed building is similar in height and scale to the surrounding homes, and sufficient parking is provided to meet the needs of the uses on the property.
- .5 Permit the establishment of daycares, both within homes and as stand-alone uses.
- .6 Encourage planting new trees where trees must be removed to accommodate site development.
- .7 Size newly created lots within Low Density Residential Areas to accommodate a variety of building typologies and encourage new housing development in a variety of housing forms. New subdivisions in Low Density Residential Areas should achieve an overall density of five to eight units per acre. The District will support alternative subdivision designs that incorporate universal design principles to

- increase active living and social interaction. Example considerations include but are not limited to:
- a. Networks of sidewalks and/or trails;
 - b. Parks and spaces for play; and
 - c. Clustered housing (e.g., courtyard housing, co-housing, cottage housing, etc.) with shared parking areas.
- .8 Ensure that development in Low Density Residential Areas provides adequate parking space to avoid the need for residents to park on the street.
 - .9 Allow home-based businesses.
 - .10 Allow for a variety of tourism accommodation uses such as bed and breakfasts, short-term rentals, or home conversions to small-scale boutique hotels, provided that such developments can accommodate parking off-street parking on site.

4.3 MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL

Medium Density Residential Areas include existing residential areas within the District of Wells (Schedule A **Error! Reference source not found.**). Currently, Medium Density Residential Areas include a mix of housing types, and the objective of this designation is to continue permitting a range of higher-density housing options within Medium Density Residential Areas. Within the Medium Density Residential Areas, developments should prioritize enhancing walkability. The development of vacant and underutilized lots in Medium Density Residential Areas is a priority and will be supported, as these lots are close to or serviced by existing water, sewer, and road networks, thus reducing the District's ongoing operating, maintenance, and replacement costs of infrastructure. The development of workforce housing will be strongly encouraged in Medium Density Residential Areas.

4.3.1 OBJECTIVES

It is the objective of Council to:

- .1 Support the development of increased residential densities in areas where adequate servicing is available and development is compatible with surrounding land uses and building forms.

4.3.2 POLICIES

It is the policy of Council to:

- .1 Support the development of higher density residential development within areas designated Medium Density Residential on Schedule A.
- .2 Allow the development of multi-family homes, including row houses, townhomes, and apartments, up to a maximum density of 65 units per hectare (26 units per acre).
- .3 Permit triplexes and fourplexes in Medium Density Residential Areas where lot sizes are appropriate, the proposed building is similar in height and scale to the surrounding homes, and sufficient parking is provided to meet the needs of the uses on the property.
- .4 Allow the development of multi-family homes up to a maximum of two storeys.
- .5 Prioritize infill development in Medium Density Residential Areas.
- .6 Encourage Medium Density developments to be designed to be compatible with surrounding land uses.
- .7 Allow home-based businesses.
- .8 Allow for a variety of tourism accommodation uses such as bed and breakfasts, short-term rentals, or home conversions to small-scale boutique hotels, provided that such developments can accommodate parking off-street parking on site.
- .9 Developments should prioritize walkability and accessibility by designing street frontages based on the guidance provided in the Provincial British Columbia Active Transportation Design Guide, 2019.

4.4 COMMERCIAL

Commercial Areas include the land on the north and south sides of Pooley Street in North Wells and the land on the north and south sides of Barkerville Highway in South Wells. These two corridors have served as the heart of the community and will continue to do so as the District of Wells grows. A variety of commercial, tourism, and residential uses will be supported in lands designated Commercial. A key goal is maintaining and enhancing pedestrian safety and comfort in a growing community.

4.4.1 OBJECTIVES

It is the objective of Council to:

- .1 Retain and enhance the Commercial Areas as the heart of the community with a mix of commercial, civic, institutional, cultural, tourist-oriented, and residential uses.
- .2 Encourage the retention and ongoing maintenance of existing heritage buildings and support the construction of new buildings that incorporate “character-defining elements and values,” as defined in the Standards & Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada (Second Edition).

4.4.2 POLICIES

It is the policy of Council to:

- .1 Support a wide range of commercial uses within areas designated Commercial on Schedule A.
- .2 Prioritize infill development on vacant or underutilized parcels in Commercial Areas to reinforce its position as the heart of the community.
- .3 Create unique public spaces at key points for people to gather within the commercial district.
- .4 Allow residential uses as accessory uses above commercial uses to encourage an active streetscape.
- .5 Retain and expand civic, institutional uses, and community facilities in the Commercial Areas.
- .6 Maintain and develop the Commercial Areas as “pedestrian-oriented” environments that prioritize pedestrians and other forms of active transportation over individual automobile use. “Pedestrian-Oriented” principles could include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Providing spaces for people of all ages and abilities to use the District without competing with other modes of transportation; and
 - b. Providing spaces that encourage people to move at their own pace and facilities that invite people to stop, stay, and spend time.
- .7 Encourage the development of new commercial businesses.
- .8 Encourage the development of tourism accommodations such as hotels, motels or short-term rentals in new and existing buildings.

4.5 RESIDENTIAL-COMMERCIAL (MIXED-USE)

Residential-Commercial (Mixed-Use) Areas are suitable for both low-intensity commercial and residential uses. Residential-Commercial (Mixed-Use) Areas will support the District's aim for a compact community core. In these areas, the District will encourage a variety of mixed residential-commercial buildings. The intention is to provide mixed-use buildings that integrate well within residential primary neighbourhoods. Compatible commercial uses may include artisan studios, coffee houses, and professional offices.

4.5.1 OBJECTIVES

It is the objective of Council to:

- .1 Allow for a variety of commercial and residential uses that are compatible with residential neighbourhoods.

4.5.2 POLICIES

It is the policy of Council to:

- .1 Support the development of mixed-use commercial buildings within areas designated Residential-Commercial on Schedule A.
- .2 Allow the following commercial uses that are considered compatible with residential neighbourhoods:
 - a. Uses that do not create significant noise or light impacts;
 - b. Businesses that are pedestrian-oriented and do not create significant additional demand for parking;
 - c. Businesses and organizations that operate during daytime working hours; and
 - d. Allow artisan studios, galleries, coffee houses, small-scale retail, and professional offices.
- .3 Encourage buildings in Residential-Commercial (Mixed-Use) Areas to be designed in a manner that considers the privacy of neighbouring lots and is protected from site illumination and noise.
- .4 Allow home-based businesses.
- .5 Allow for a variety of tourism accommodation uses such as bed and breakfasts, short-term rentals, or building conversions to small-scale boutique hotels, provided that such developments can accommodate off-street parking on site.

4.6 INSTITUTIONAL

Institutional land uses provide essential services to the community, such as schools, community buildings, services such as the Fire Hall and RCMP station, or more practical uses, such as Public Works yards. While many civic uses can be comfortably located within commercial spaces, this land use designation intends to provide space for those with more complex or unique land requirements.

4.6.1 OBJECTIVES

It is the objective of Council to:

- .1 Provide sufficient lands within the District to support future institutional uses as required.
- .2 Support redevelopment and revitalization of the School Site (bound by Barker Street, Dawson Street, Mildred Avenue, and the laneway) that advances the community's social development goals (including learning opportunities), expands opportunities for arts and culture and generates economic opportunities.

4.6.2 POLICIES

It is the policy of Council to:

- .1 Support the development of civic and institutional uses within areas designated Institutional on Schedule A.
- .2 Engage with the community, government agencies, and community groups on any future proposals for the Wells-Barkerville Culture and Recreation Centre Site.
- .3 Ensure that the vision outlined in the Wells-Barkerville Culture and Recreation Centre (WBCRC) Business Plan is considered in any potential future development of the WBCRC site, including developing a covered recreation area.
- .4 Maintain the WBCRC site to provide space for the elementary school, access to secondary school education, childcare, community groups, and artists.
- .5 Allow for the use of the WBCRC site as a venue during community events and festivals.
- .6 Ensure the WBCRC site is considered when planning for new institutional facilities.
- .7 Work with the Crown to develop community facility uses on Crown land in the District of Wells. This could include but is not limited to maintaining an ongoing dialogue with Crown representatives and Lhtako Dene Nation about the District's vision and plans for Crown land and utilizing the Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development's Community Institutional Policy to develop community facility uses on Crown land.

4.7 LIGHT INDUSTRIAL

Light Industrial Areas provide space for both commercial service and light industrial uses. Commercial Service/Light Industrial Areas host uses oriented towards motor vehicle needs, manufacturing, warehousing, and construction industries. The District of Wells will direct these uses to the areas shown on Schedules A and B.

4.7.1 OBJECTIVES

It is the objective of Council to:

- .1 Provide space for service commercial and light industrial uses that support industrial development in the District of Wells.

4.7.2 POLICIES

It is the policy of Council to:

- .1 Support the development of light industrial uses within areas designated Light Industrial on Schedule A and Schedule B.
- .2 Support a variety of Light Industrial uses.
- .3 Ensure that developments in Light Industrial areas are screened from neighbouring properties with landscaping and/or fencing.
- .4 Consider other areas for Light Industrial uses on a site-by-site basis.
- .5 Not allow residential uses in Light Industrial areas, except for caretakers, work camps, maintenance staff, or business owners.

4.8 HEAVY INDUSTRIAL

The Heavy Industrial Areas provide space for heavy industrial uses related to mining, forestry, and other heavy industries in the District of Wells. Heavy Industrial uses operate at large scales and involve large undertakings in terms of the types of equipment used and the volume of product produced. The District of Wells will direct these uses to the areas shown on Schedules A and B.

4.8.1 OBJECTIVES

It is the objective of Council to:

- .1 Provide space for mining activity, forestry, and other heavy industrial activity that can support the future growth of the District of Wells.

4.8.2 POLICIES

It is the policy of Council to:

- .1 Support the development of Heavy Industrial uses within areas designated Heavy Industrial on Schedules A and B.
- .2 Ensure that developments in Heavy Industrial Areas are screened from neighbouring properties with tree preservation, landscaping and/or fencing.
- .3 Require that Heavy Industrial users follow relevant environmental regulations.
- .4 Consider other areas for Heavy Industrial uses on a site-by-site basis.
- .5 Consider the impact of air, noise, light and water (including groundwater) pollution on residents when evaluating any industrial development application.
- .6 Consider social and community effects, such as health, safety, security, lifestyle, and effects on tourism, when evaluating any industrial development application.
- .7 Require project proponents to follow the development approval process whenever a change in OCP land use designation is contemplated (as per Part 14, Division 6 of the Local Government Act).
- .8 Not allow residential uses in Heavy Industrial Areas, except for caretakers, work camps, maintenance staff, or business owners, provided the residence is clearly associated with the primary industrial use.
- .9 Ensure that work camps follow best practices set out in the B.C. Guidelines for Industrial Camps Regulation, as regulated by the Province.
- .10 Consider the impacts of increased traffic that may result from the addition of a worker camp on-site when evaluating any industrial development application.

4.9 URBAN PARKS

Urban Parks are parks within the Wells Townsite area that include urban amenities. Parks provide spaces to gather, play, relax and connect with neighbours and visitors. Urban Parks are also valuable amenities for tourists and visitors. Figure 19: Parks and Active Transportation includes a map of existing and proposed Urban Parks. In June 2024, Council passed a motion recommending that the Community Buildings and Lands Select Committee develop a Master Plan for community facilities, parks and recreation.

4.9.1 OBJECTIVES

It is the objective of Council to:

- .1 Provide parks and facilities to satisfy the community's and visitors' recreation needs.
- .2 Invest in a network of urban parks that create focal points and gathering spaces through the Wells Townsite area.
- .3 Link Urban Parks through greenway corridors, paths, and trail development, and provide public access to major creek systems, watercourses, recreation areas, and areas of interest for tourists.
- .4 Promote the maintenance of the forested slopes within the visual field of the municipality in a manner that is not detrimental to the visual environment of the District of Wells.

4.9.2 POLICIES

It is the policy of Council to:

- .1 Support the development of a variety of park and trail types within areas designated Urban Parks on Schedule A.
- .2 Develop infrastructure in Urban Parks that supports active living and is inclusive for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities.
- .3 Continue to acquire parkland or collect money in lieu, as provincial legislation requires, for parkland acquisition as lands are subdivided.
- .4 Support community organizations using Urban Parks for events, educational programming, and other initiatives.
- .5 Support place-making initiatives and creative art installations within Urban Parks to contribute to the sense of place in the District of Wells.
- .6 Build on existing trail networks to adapt them for use as active transportation infrastructure to support greater transportation choice.
- .7 Support development of a new shoreline park at Jack of Clubs Lake in collaboration with government agencies and other local project partners.
- .8 Preserve and enhance the visual quality of Jack of Clubs Lake to preserve the viewscape as one approaches the community,
- .9 Provide public washrooms and garbage collection bins in Urban Parks.

4.10 RURAL & OUTDOOR RECREATION

The Rural and Outdoor Recreation designation includes areas used for economic and resource extraction activities, as well as outdoor recreation opportunities. In these areas, the District will work with the provincial government to maintain high environmental management standards and to support outdoor recreation opportunities that promote active living and community-wide health.

4.10.1 OBJECTIVES

It is the objective of Council to:

- .1 Provide a variety of economic and outdoor recreation uses that will enhance community well-being and provide opportunities for residents and visitors.
- .2 Participate in engagement opportunities for natural resource development to ensure that proponents and government regulators understand and consider the values and concerns of the community.
- .3 Promote the maintenance of the forested slopes within the visual field of the District in a manner that is not detrimental to the visual environment.

4.10.2 POLICIES

It is the policy of Council to:

- .1 Support the development of a variety of activities within areas designated Rural and Outdoor Recreation on Schedule A.
- .2 Support clubs and non-profit organizations who work to maintain and develop outdoor recreation infrastructure and trails on lands designated for Rural and Outdoor Recreation.
- .3 Promote and enhance outdoor recreation and trail development as a strategy to attract tourists and residents.
- .4 The District will ensure that forested slopes within the visual field of the municipality are managed in a manner that is not detrimental to the visual environment of the District of Wells.
- .5 On privately held land that may impact visual quality objectives, the District will adopt provisions under the Local Government Act to protect the removal of trees. Such policies and provisions shall not be inconsistent with the Forest Land Reserve Act.
- .6 Work with senior government to require that resource-based industries exercise good environmental stewardship as part of their resource management practices.
- .7 Work with government agencies and industry to minimize the impacts of natural resource extraction activities on existing and potential outdoor recreation areas and trails, particularly those identified in Figure 19: Parks and Active Transportation.

4.11 COMMERCIAL RECREATION

The Commercial Recreation designation is intended to provide areas for future uses that support the growing tourism economy in the District of Wells. In these areas, a mix of accommodations such as hotels, motels, and vacation rentals are supported and integrated with commercial recreation opportunities such as snowmobile lodges, RV parks, mountain bike parks, or other commercial recreation opportunities. The development of commercial recreation businesses is encouraged to further develop the local tourism economy and provide additional opportunities for visitors to the District.

Commercial Recreation areas shall include an anchor attraction such as a lodge, mountain bike park, adventure park, guest ranch, golf course or other relevant supporting uses, including retail, tourist accommodation, and residential uses.

4.11.1 OBJECTIVES

It is the objective of Council to:

- .1 Expand the District's offerings for commercial recreation opportunities to build the District's reputation as a four-season destination.
- .2 Ensure an adequate supply and variety of tourist accommodations to support commercial recreation operations in the District of Wells.
- .3 Ensure there is adequate housing for seasonal and permanent workers.
- .4 Support a variety of complementary commercial uses that help build local tourist attractions.

4.11.2 POLICIES

It is the policy of Council to:

- .1 The District will support the development of commercial recreation and accommodation uses within areas designated Commercial Recreation Schedule A and B.
- .2 Work with the Province to ensure an adequate supply of Crown land for commercial recreation and accommodation use.
- .3 Encourage the development of commercial outdoor recreation businesses that draw visitors year-round, including but not limited to ski hills, mountain bike parks, adventure parks, golf courses, guest ranches, or lodges.
- .4 Support a variety of residential uses such as one-, two-, and multi-family dwellings and tiny homes that are accessory to commercial recreation areas.
- .5 The development of tourist facilities, such as recreational vehicle parks, will be encouraged on sufficiently large parcels of suitably located vacant land. Locations suitable for potential recreational vehicle parks are indicated on Schedule B, the Official Community Plan Map.

5.0 OBJECTIVES & POLICIES FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

5.1 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

The District of Wells will maintain and enhance community infrastructure to ensure residents and businesses can access reliable services, including water, power, communication, and transportation systems. Figure 14: Utilities and Road Network includes an overview of existing water and sewer infrastructure and proposed water and sewer service areas that are required to achieve the development plan in Figure 21: Growth Management Areas, Schedules A and B. The District of Wells' current water system includes:

- **Water Services:** A groundwater well and treatment plant located at Ski Hill Road and Solibakke Drive distributes treated water to homes and to a reservoir located on the western side of North Wells.
- **Sanitary Sewer System:** A gravity main collection system services the community. Gravity mains drain towards a sanitary lift station located at Blair Avenue and Dawson Street, where sewage is pumped up Hard Scrabble Road to the wastewater treatment lagoon.
- **Stormwater System:** The District of Wells does not have an underground stormwater management system. Drainage is mainly conveyed overland, and there are a few catch basins that outlet to the ditch. Ditches and culverts manage drainage in some areas of the community, while other areas have no defined drainage system.

5.1.1 OBJECTIVES

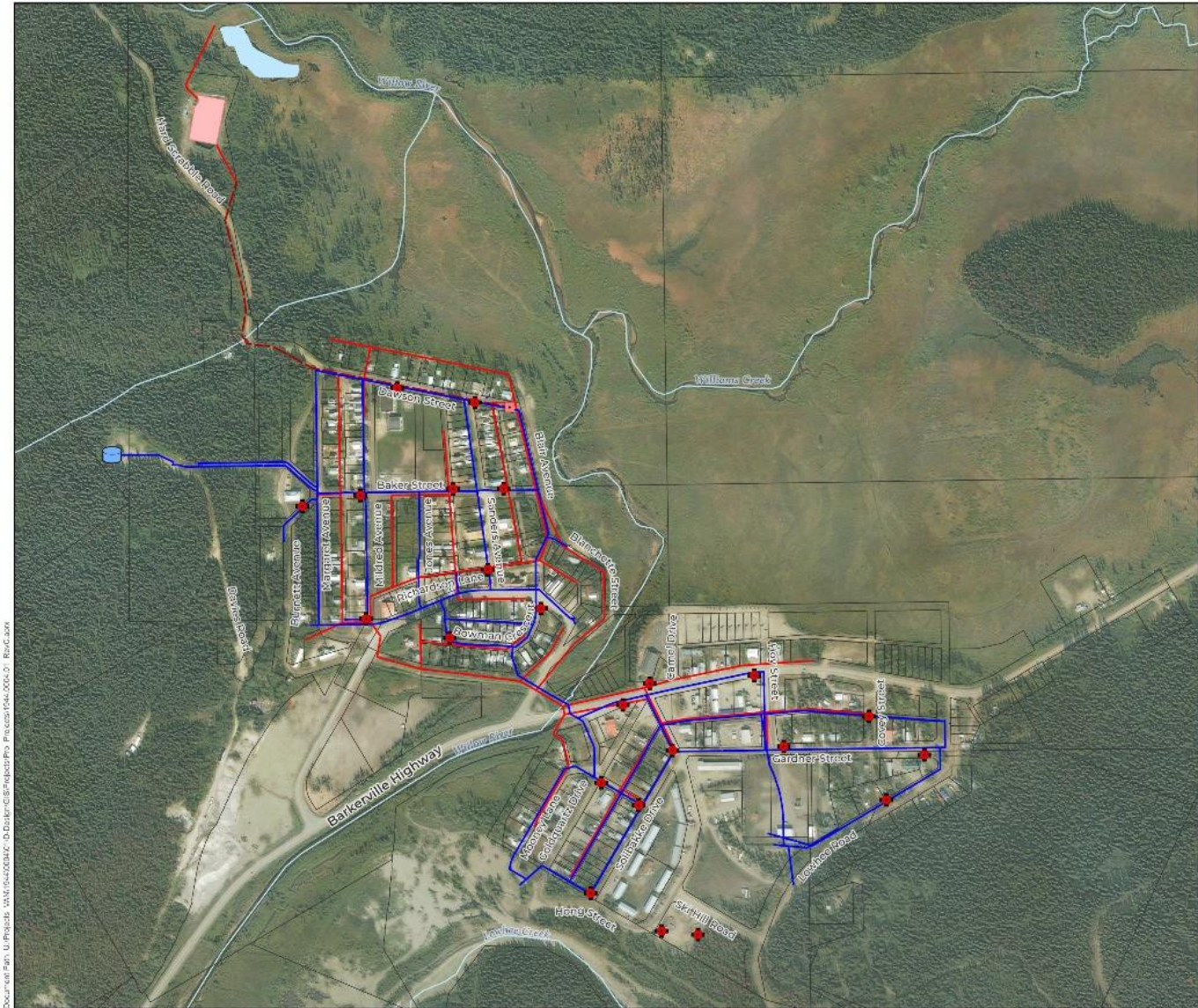
It is the objective of Council to:

- .1 Support the development and maintenance of community infrastructure in existing community areas.
- .2 Manage infrastructure investments in a fiscally sound manner.
- .3 Ensure development occurs in an organized manner in appropriate areas.
- .4 New development located in the District of Wells Townsite Area of Figure 21: Growth Management Areas will be serviced by District water and sewer services. Development outside of the Wells Townsite Area will be serviced with on-site water and septic systems.
- .5 The District should develop and maintain safe and efficient water and sanitary utilities that accommodate the growth management objectives and policies within this Plan.

5.1.2 POLICIES

It is the policy of Council to:

- .1 Ensure that water and sanitary sewer utilities and drainage servicing required for all development, whether or not consistent with the growth management objectives and policies within this Plan, must be determined from:
 - a. Water and sewer infrastructure servicing studies prepared by a qualified professional engineer;
 - b. Stormwater management plan(s) prepared by a qualified team consisting of a professional engineer, an environmental professional, and other professionals as required;
 - c. Provide capacity sufficient for the proposed development and for future lands to be served beyond the proposed development, based on District design guidelines, standards, and other requirements adopted by bylaw; and
 - d. Meet all applicable servicing requirements regulated by the provincial and federal governments.
- .2 Consider and, where opportunities exist, implement low-impact development and other storm runoff volume-based discharge reduction strategies for new development and redevelopment to reduce the requirement to increase existing storm sewer and drainage facilities.
- .3 Utilize available techniques, such as sensitivity analyses, to consider climate change's impact on storm drainage facilities.
- .4 Look for opportunities to integrate climate adaptation.
- .5 Develop new infrastructure in a safe and sustainable way.
- .6 Determine the location and inventory of existing community infrastructure, including the District of Wells, pipes, and other services.



**District of Wells
Official Community Plan
Bylaw No. XX
Utilities and Road Network**

- Municipal Boundary
- Reservoir
- ⊕ Hydrant
- Water Main
- Lift Station
- - - Sanitary Pressure Main
- - - Sanitary Gravity Main
- Lagoon

0 50 100 200 300
Meters
Scale: 1:5,500

Figure 14: Utilities and Road Network

5.2 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

This chapter covers a wide variety of social development topics, including arts, culture, safety, accessibility, diversity, inclusion, education, and food security. The map in Figure 15: Community Facilities illustrates the location of existing institutional uses, community amenities, and services, including:

- Wells Community Hall, which includes:
 - Gathering Space (rental)
 - Library
 - Offices
 - Primary Health Care Clinic (one day/month)
 - Library
 - Gymnasium
 - Stage
 - Dance Studio
- Wells-Barkerville Culture and Recreation Centre (WBCRC)
- Community Garden

The Wells-Barkerville Culture and Recreation Centre (WBCRC) and the Wells Community Hall serve as key gathering places for residents. These facilities also provide residents access to various services and supports. In September 2020, the District of Wells developed the Wells-Barkerville Culture and Recreation Centre (WBCRC) Business Plan (updated in 2022). The Business Plan proposes a renewed vision for the WBCRC that includes various community, education, fitness, and revenue-generating uses. Additionally, an umbrella Master Plan for community facilities, parks and recreation is being developed by the District (approved 2024), which will also guide future uses of the site and its buildings.

Through the OCP survey, respondents expressed the importance of keeping the District of Wells safe, and respondents felt it was important that the District is regarded as a welcoming and diverse community. Survey responses indicated that the priorities for social development include improving access to healthcare services, healthy and fresh food, more amenities for youth, and the creation of an inclusive and diverse community. During interviews with the District of Wells school students, many expressed that they felt safe in the district and told stories reiterating the District of Wells' strong sense of community.

5.2.1 ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE

5.2.1.A Objectives

It is the objective of Council to:

- .1 Recognize the contribution of arts, culture, and heritage to social and economic activity and sustainability. The District will continue to provide leadership in developing arts, culture, and heritage within the community and develop policies that encourage the growth of the cultural industries.
- .2 Encourage the preservation, conservation, and restoration of historical buildings and natural features that are representative of the District's unique Heritage.

5.2.1.B Policies

It is the policy of Council to:

- .1 Support community-based arts, culture, and heritage events, activities and initiatives led by local non-profit organizations.
- .2 Promote and support using parks, civic buildings and public spaces for art, performances, festivals, and exhibitions.
- .3 Seek and support external funding resources for cultural programs, events, and facilities.
- .4 Support arts and heritage activities in the community through grants-in-aid.
- .5 Work with the CRD and other municipalities, school districts, Chamber of Commerce, Barkerville Historic Town and Park, major employers, and other agencies to plan and coordinate arts initiatives.
- .6 Ensure that housing in Low Density Residential Areas is varied in design, footprint, form, and materials.
- .7 Support the preservation of significant archival material and artifacts.
- .8 Develop and promote a Heritage Register and the BC Register of Historic Places to officially list and describe the unique features of heritage properties and buildings in the District of Wells.
 - a. Build upon the existing Heritage Plan, 1991, the Heritage Inventory established in 1983, and Bylaw No. 16, 1999 Heritage Properties.
- .9 Encourage and facilitate volunteerism to help manage, protect, and enhance heritage buildings in the District of Wells and promote education and awareness about historical buildings in the District.
- .10 Require property owners to follow the design guidelines in the Commercial Core Development Permit Area.
- .11 Support the re-development and revitalization of the District of Wells School Site, as outlined in the WBCRC Business Plan.
- .12 Collaborate with the Wells Historical Society to preserve the District of Wells's historical form and character.

5.2.2 FOOD SECURITY

5.2.2.A Objectives

It is the objective of Council to:

- .1 Support partnerships and initiatives that ensure residents have access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food in the community.

5.2.2.B Policies

It is the policy of Council to:

- .1 Support initiatives and organizations that seek to connect consumers to local and healthy food through local food production (e.g., farmers markets, community-supported agriculture programs, etc.)
- .2 Ensure existing policies and bylaws help eliminate barriers to sustainable food and agriculture systems.
- .3 Support the development of community gardens, kitchens, and greenhouses.

5.2.3 INCLUSIVE, ACCESSIBLE & SAFE COMMUNITY

5.2.3.A Objectives

It is the objective of Council to:

- .1 Support measures to ensure all citizens experience equal access to the community's unique experiences.
- .2 Support opportunities for relationship-building between new, seasonal, and long-term residents.
- .3 Encourage all new developments to meet modern accessibility standards.

5.2.3.B Policies

It is the policy of Council to:

- .1 Invest in improvements to the accessibility of civic buildings and infrastructure. This can include applying for grants and allocating funding for renovations and high accessibility standards in new civic buildings and developments.
- .2 Encourage new developments to incorporate a high standard of accessibility.
- .3 Promote the participation of all citizens in decision-making through the development of non-discriminatory municipal bylaws, policies, programs, and services.
- .4 Support measures to challenge discrimination and promote diversity and equal opportunities throughout the community of Wells.

5.2.4 EDUCATION & CHILDHOOD

5.2.4.A Objectives

It is the objective of Council to:

1. Develop a culture of life-long learning by providing public and private education opportunities to serve a broad range of interests and age groups.
2. Support the Wells-Barkerville Culture and Recreation Centre (WBCRC) revitalization as outlined in the WBCRC Business Plan.

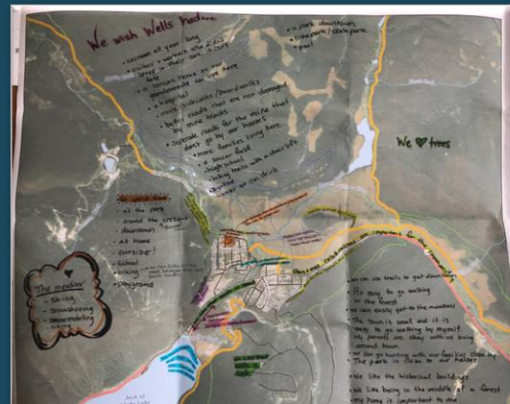
5.2.4.B Policies

It is the policy of Council to:

1. Support measures that ensure all children from birth to age five have access to comprehensive early childhood development and care.
2. Retain and maintain the Wells-Barkerville Community School as a vital element in the community's current and future development.
3. Promote the ongoing liaison and cooperation with School District #28 on matters of mutual interest, including the efficient use of resources in site development and existing facilities in searching for innovative solutions to the provision of educational facilities.
4. Support the development of education facilities, including existing elementary and community schools and other educational institutions, in conjunction with business and economic development.
5. Only explore the creation of new buildings as necessary. Compare costs and opportunities between renovating old buildings and constructing new ones on other sites to make a business case for new developments.

Did you know?

As part of the the District of Wells OCP update, students at Wells School were asked what they like to do for fun in the District of Wells and what changes they would like to see in the community. The students said they enjoy spending time outside riding their bike, going on walks, and playing in the park and playground. They would like to have more things to do and have more opportunities for outdoor recreation and learning. Many students also mentioned they like that everyone in the community knows each other and would like to see more children.





District of Wells
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 Community Facilities

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Figure 15: Community Facilities

5.3 ENVIRONMENT

This section of the OCP includes objectives and policies for environmental values, including groundwater/drinking water, riparian areas, air quality, wildlife and habitat protection, and contaminated sites. Figure 16: Environment includes a map illustrating environmentally sensitive areas in the District of Wells. Some of the notable environmentally sensitive areas within the District include:

- Riparian areas (watercourses containing fish), specifically those that are located near the Wells Townsite area, including Lowhee Creek, Willow River, and Williams Creek
- Jack of Clubs Lake
- Wetlands north of the Wells Townsite area (Meadows trail network)
- Southern Mountain Caribou (Species at Risk) habitat in the northwestern portion of the District (Barkerville Caribou herd)
- Whitebark pine (Species at Risk) habitat in the northeastern portion of the District
- The entire District of Wells is within Grizzly Bear Habitat
- The Wells-Barkerville Community Forest and remaining forested lands are home to other Species at Risk, including the wolverine and fisher

The District of Wells relies on a groundwater well and water treatment plant at Ski Hill Road and Solibakke Drive to provide clean and potable water to homes in the Wells Townsite area. Treated water is distributed directly into the water treatment plant's distribution system, where community services and a storage reservoir are connected. The storage reservoir is located on the hill to the community's west, generally in line with Baker Street. Private wells service outlying areas. Given the community's reliance on groundwater, ensuring its protection is an important consideration in future planning.

Due to the age of buildings in the District of Wells, there is a higher risk of lead contamination from old plumbing. The District of Wells worked with Northern Health in the summer of 2021 to minimize the risk of lead contamination. The Northern Health findings indicate that the risk of lead contamination results from private plumbing in individual buildings and that flushing plumbing will reduce the risk of contamination.

Given the history of the District of Wells, brownfields and contaminated sites are important environmental considerations when planning development. Brownfields and contaminated sites include properties with a historical use that may have resulted in site contamination or the perception of contamination from previous use. Examples of uses with a higher likelihood of contamination include abandoned mine sites, gas stations, dry cleaners, former dumps/waste facilities, scrap yards, and former industrial sites. The provincial government regulates the use and management of contaminated sites through the *Environmental Management Act* and *Contaminated Sites Regulation*. Local governments work with the provincial government to ensure that contaminated sites are identified and cleaned up before re-development. In 2022, Northern Health ordered the Crown Contaminated Sites Program to extensively test historic tailings around Jack of Clubs Lake and the Willow River to assess the extent of contamination and recommend further action.

5.3.1 GROUNDWATER AND DRINKING WATER OBJECTIVES & POLICIES

5.3.1.A Objectives

It is the objective of Council to:

- .1 Protect, enhance, and monitor the quality of groundwater sources that provide safe drinking water to the residents of the District of Wells.
- .2 Explore opportunities for additional water sources.

5.3.1.B Policies

It is the policy of Council to:

- .1 Limit incompatible uses that may pose a risk to groundwater contamination near wellheads that provide drinking water sources for the District of Wells.
- .2 Continue to monitor groundwater to ensure a safe drinking water supply for residents.
- .3 Explore opportunities to increase system redundancy or improve existing water sources.
- .4 Support opportunities for the community to learn, measure, monitor, enhance, conserve, and educate about water quality, air quality, biodiversity, and environmental protection.

5.3.2 RIPARIAN OBJECTIVES & POLICIES

5.3.2.A Objectives

It is the objective of Council to:

- .1 Preserve, protect, and restore riparian and wetland areas to maintain and enhance water quality and quantity and watercourses' ecological functions so they continue supporting healthy fish and wildlife populations.

5.3.2.B Policies

It is the policy of Council to:

- .1 Support the provincial government in ensuring that effluents and waste material do not flow into riparian areas and are not placed within riparian setbacks.
- .2 Encourage the maintenance of natural vegetation in riparian areas to protect fish and wildlife and maintain efficient drainage systems. The District may require a restrictive covenant over land to be rezoned adjacent to watercourses to maintain an area adjacent to the watercourse in its natural state.
- .3 Build roads, culverts, and bridges according to provincial specifications to avoid damage to watercourses and fisheries.

5.3.3 AIR QUALITY

5.3.3.A Objectives

It is the objective of Council to:

- .1 Improve air quality by reducing fine particulate matter levels, odours, and other harmful pollutants.

5.3.3.B Policies

It is the policy of Council to:

- .1 Support voluntary airshed research, education, and planning initiatives.
- .2 Encourage active transportation to reduce the amount of air pollution generated by personal vehicles.
- .3 Encourage residents and businesses to switch to high-efficiency wood stoves or alternatives.

5.3.4 WILDLIFE & HABITAT PROTECTION

5.3.4.A Objectives

It is the objective of Council to:

- .1 Continue to grow and develop within a compact footprint and maintain separation between urban areas and natural wilderness areas.

5.3.4.B Policies

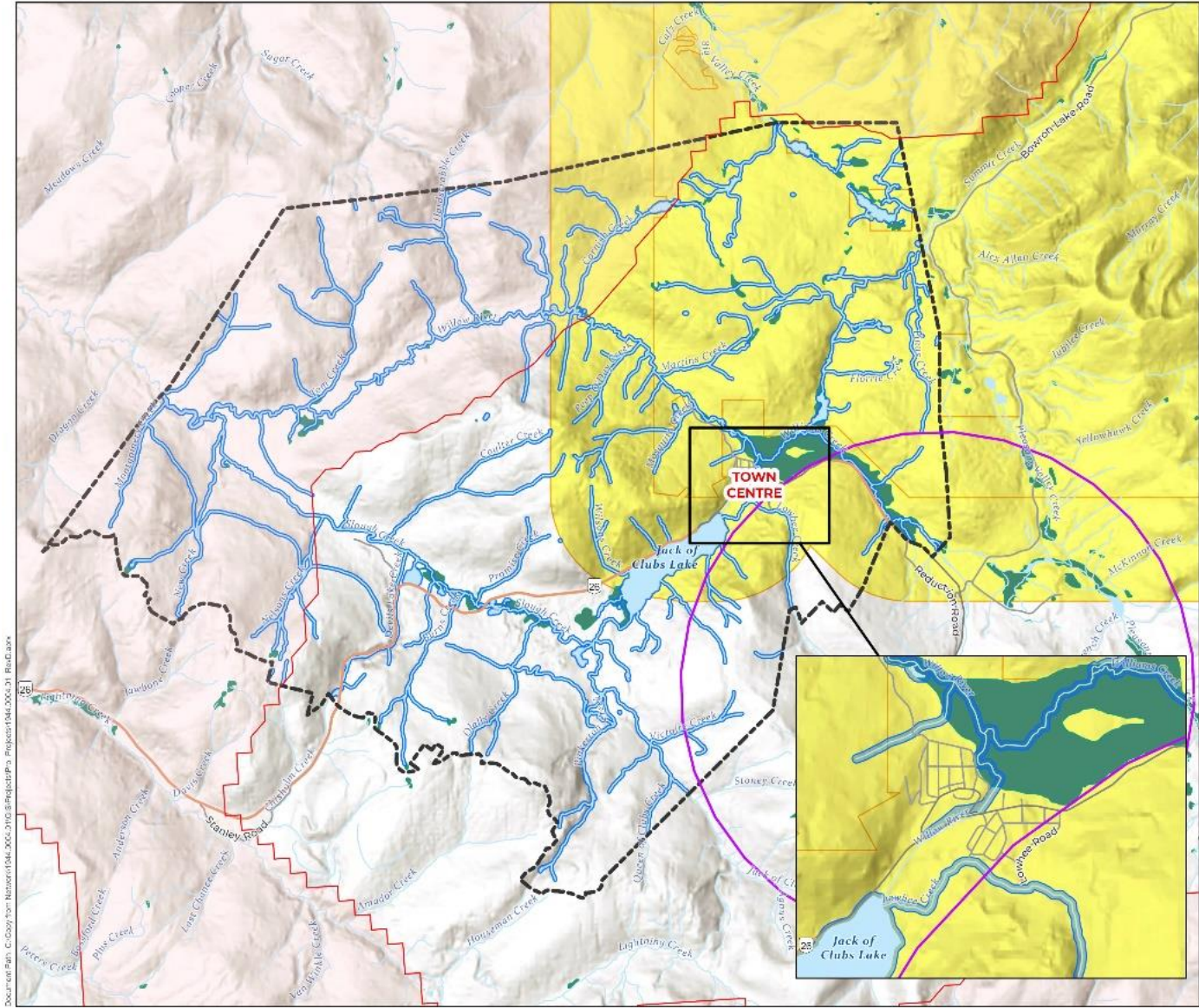
It is the policy of Council to:

- .1 Promote initiatives that raise awareness about local biodiversity and terrestrial environmental issues, including but not limited to caribou, grizzly bears, and whitebark pine trees.
- .2 Develop and enforce regulations permitted under the Local Government Act that limit deforestation on large, private properties.
- .3 Participate in engagement opportunities with industry and senior levels of government and advocate for natural resource extraction that minimizes impacts on biodiversity and terrestrial ecosystems within the District of Wells.
- .4 Maintain the Community Forest Agreement with the Wells-Barkerville Community Forest and support Community Forest initiatives and programs.

Did you know?

The District of Wells is home to the Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble Bee which is a Species at Risk in BC. The Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble Bee (*Bombus bohemicus*) is one of six different cuckoo bumble bee species in North America and has been found in every part of Canada except Nunavut. Unlike most bumble bees, gypsy cuckoo bumble bees do not collect pollen to bring back to their colony, so they do not have any pollen baskets on their hind legs. They often nest near wooded areas but can be found in both rural and urban habitats.





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Environmentally Sensitive Areas**

- Municipal Boundary
 - Provincial Parks, Eco Reserves and Protected Areas
 - Riparian Areas
 - Wetlands
 - Whitebark Pine - Critical Habitat
- Species and Ecosystems at Risk
- Caribou (Southern Mountain Population)
 - Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble Bee

Note: The whole map extent is Grizzly Bear habitat, as well as critical habitat for Caribou - Southern Mountain population

0 1 2 4 6
Kilometers
Scale: 1:120,000

Figure 16: Environment

5.4 ECONOMY

The current economy in the District of Wells is deeply tied to arts, heritage, recreation, and tourism. Mining is a growing industry in the District, and it is present in many forms, including placer and lode mining. **The arts, culture, and recreation sectors are the primary employers in the District of Wells:** Arts, culture, and recreation jobs account for 14% of the labour force in the District of Wells, compared to only 2% in the Cariboo Region and 4% across the Province. Currently, mining accounts for 6% of the labour force. By 2040, this statistic could change significantly, as the proposed mining project could add 460 direct jobs to the community.

The District of Wells' unemployment rates are high and fluctuate more than the region and Province: In 2016, the District of Wells' unemployment rate was 14.8%, compared to 11% in the Cariboo Region and 7% in the province. Unemployment rates in the Cariboo Region and the province stayed fairly constant between 2006 and 2016, while in the District of Wells, unemployment rates fluctuated from 6.3% (2006) to 25% (2011) to 14.8% (2016). In 2021, the unemployment rate in the District increased to 38%, compared to 10% in the Cariboo Region and 8% across the Province. The relatively large variations can be partially attributed to the low population of the District of Wells. Still, any actions to improve the stability of the local economy will have a positive impact on overall employment rates.

This section provides policy direction for economic development in the District of Wells. For more information on the existing economy in the District of Wells, see Section 2.5.

5.4.1 OBJECTIVES

It is the objective of Council to:

- .1 Encourage sustainable economic development and diversification while prioritizing the unique arts, culture, heritage, and tourism economy in the District of Wells.
- .2 Establish the infrastructure and amenities required to attract and retain a variety of businesses, professionals, creative professionals, and industry workers to the District of Wells.
- .3 Support the development of various retail and service-based businesses that allow residents to become less reliant on larger towns and cities.
- .4 Build on the District of Wells' existing reputation as a tourist destination by encouraging the development of additional tourism experiences, accommodations, businesses, and infrastructure to bolster the tourism economy.
- .5 Provide adequate and appropriately located land to accommodate the anticipated growth in industrial sectors while minimizing impacts for residents and/or negative impacts on residents' health and the environment.

5.4.2 POLICIES

It is the policy of Council to:

- .1 Continue to invest in improved internet access, such as fibre optic to individual buildings and reliable electrical power that will make it more practical for a variety of businesses to operate in the District of Wells.
- .2 Work with proponents of new projects to ensure that projects can proceed in a manner that is collaborative and mutually beneficial to the community.
- .3 Support work-from-home scenarios for employment types that do not conflict with existing land uses.
- .4 Encourage a range of tourist opportunities that promote arts, culture, and heritage, including tourist accommodation facilities such as hotels/motels, campgrounds, short-term rentals, and bed and breakfasts.
- .5 Support the development of outdoor recreation infrastructure and amenities that attract visitors and residents throughout the year.
- .6 Work collaboratively with the Government of Canada, the Province of British Columbia, Indigenous governments, Cariboo Regional District, the City of Quesnel, and other partner agencies to advance collective economic priorities.

5.5 HOUSING

This chapter includes an overview of issues and policy direction for ensuring everyone in the District of Wells can access safe, affordable housing that meets their needs. Based on 2021 census data, the District of Wells housing stock is predominantly single-family dwellings: 70% of homes in the District of Wells are single-family dwellings, and the remaining homes are row homes (17%), apartment units (9%), movable dwellings (4%), or "other" units (4%). The District of Wells has fewer housing types than the Province. The District of Wells has more renter households (35%) compared to the region (22%), but the number of renter households in the District of Wells is consistent with the provincial average (33%).

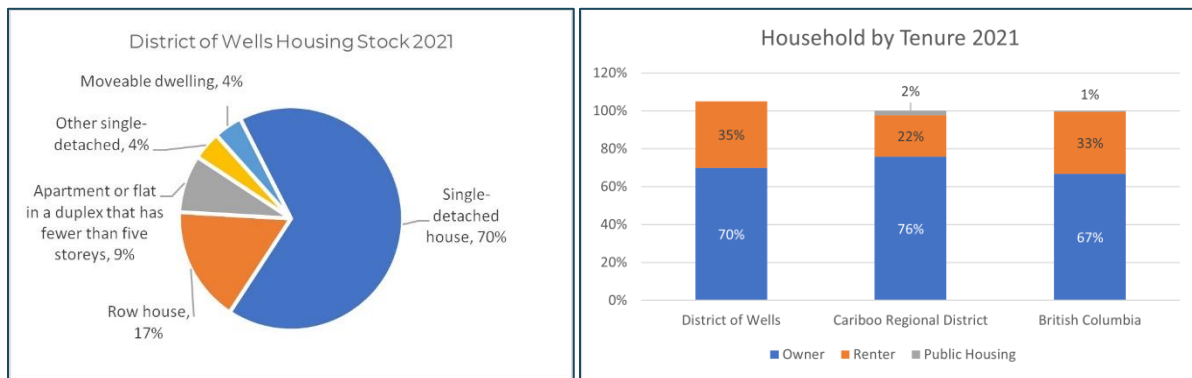


Figure 17: Existing Housing Stock by Type of Dwelling and Tenure

The OCP survey included questions about housing issues. Many respondents expressed support for renovating and restoring old homes and building housing similar to the scale of existing housing in the District of Wells. Respondents also expressed the need for a wider variety of housing types (e.g., duplexes, townhomes, apartments, etc.). Some of the key issues that were raised include:

- Lack of rental housing
- Lack of supply of housing for seasonal workers
- Lack of supply of housing stock for sale
- Many homes are vacant for large portions of the year
- Lack of housing for seniors and people with disabilities
- Housing is not maintained
- Some respondents also noted concerns about the impact of work camps on the community

Did you know?

Most homes in the District of Wells were built before the 1960s – 70% of the District’s housing was built prior to the 1960s; this is vastly different to the Cariboo Region (10%) and the Province (14%). As a result of the older housing stock, **29%** of homes in the District are considered in need of “major repair” (compared to 10% across the Province).

5.5.1 OBJECTIVES

It is the objective of Council to:

- .1 Provide an adequate supply and range of housing choices for people of all ages, abilities, and incomes.
- .2 Develop new housing that reinforces the District of Wells as a compact and walkable community.
- .3 Develop housing for seasonal workers that generates long-term benefits to the community and fosters the development of a cohesive and inclusive community.
- .4 Develop and enhance partnerships with all forms of government and forge new relationships across sectors to further affordable housing objectives.

5.5.2 POLICIES

It is the policy of Council to:

- .1 Support secondary suites in appropriate areas, provided that they meet the requirements of the BC Building Code.
- .2 Support the development of a greater variety of housing options and increased residential density in the Wells Townsite area, as is identified in Schedule A and further described in Section 5.5 of this Plan.
- .3 Support the development of non-market, affordable and/or rental housing in all residential and mixed-use areas. To reduce barriers to affordable housing development, the requirements for height, setbacks, and parking should be modified in the Zoning Bylaw. Buildings and structures may be varied in accordance with the recommendations of a Qualified Professional to support the provision of affordable housing.
- .4 Play a leadership role in developing innovative housing options that support temporary and seasonal workers and better integrate workers into the community.
- .5 Support renovation and restoration of the existing housing stock and development of vacant residential infill lots.
- .6 Encourage housing development on a scale and heritage aesthetic similar to the existing housing in the District of Wells.
- .7 Develop housing to support year-round residents and housing that accommodates seasonal and temporary workers.
- .8 Ensure camp housing is located within Industrial land use designations.
- .9 Work with BC Housing to explore potential future projects on Crown lands.
- .10 Ensure new housing developments are adequately supplied with carports, garages, and storage space.
- .11 Where appropriate, support provisions made to encourage the industry to invest in legacy housing projects as opposed to camp housing.

5.6 HAZARDS

Figure 18: Hazards illustrates the location of significant slopes (20% to 30% grade) within the District of Wells and wildfire risk as per the Government of BC Wildland Urban Interface Risk Class Maps¹⁰. Neither the District of Wells nor the Government of BC has floodplain mapping readily available for the District of Wells.

As a historic community, many of the buildings in the District of Wells are wood structures that are over seventy years old. Climate change, the surrounding expanse of forests, and the age of buildings in the District of Wells create an environment with high wildfire risk. In addition, the community has only one highway providing vehicle access into and out of the community, creating a further challenge for emergency response. The Government of BC Wildland Urban Interface Risk Class Maps identify the District of Wells as a Risk Class 1 on a scale of 1 to 5, with “1” being a higher relative risk and “5” being the lowest relative risk.

The District of Wells also has several brownfields or contaminated sites within its boundary as a historic mining community. Past mining activity in the District left behind contaminated soils, which persist today and pose a hazard to groundwater resources and community drinking water.

This section outlines objectives and policies for hazards, including wildfires, significant slopes, and flooding.

5.6.1.A Objectives

It is the objective of Council to:

- .1 Promote settlement patterns and take preventive measures that minimize the risk associated with hazardous conditions to protect life and property.

5.6.1.B Policies

It is the policy of Council to:

- .1 Encourage the use of FireSmart building materials and systems (including sprinklers) in renovating and constructing new private and public buildings and creating a FireSmart landscape that reduces fuel on properties.
- .2 Participate in local and regional hazard mitigation and emergency preparedness efforts.
- .3 Improve public awareness of hazardous conditions through events, education campaigns, and partnerships.
- .4 Require geotechnical reports from a certified professional geotechnical engineer for proposed developments on lands identified as Significant Slopes on Figure 18: Hazards or where the District has been advised that land is in an area subject to

¹⁰ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/vegetation-and-fuel-management/fire-fuel-management/wui-risk-class-maps>

flooding, erosion, landslip, subsidence, or other natural hazards (or has the possibility of exacerbating a risk to adjacent property).

- .5 Require landowners to complete Site Profiles, as the Ministry of Environment requires, before development proceeds in areas subject to arsenic and other contamination.
- .6 Discourage the following activities on Significant Slope areas identified Figure 18:
Hazards:
 - a. Excavation of slope or its toe;
 - b. Use of unstable earth fills for construction;
 - c. Loading of slope or its crest, such as placing earth fill at the top of a slope;
 - d. Deforestation – cutting down trees/logging and clearing land for crops;
 - e. Irrigation and lawn watering;
 - f. Mining/mine waste containment;
 - g. Artificial vibration such as pile driving, explosions, or other strong ground vibrations;
 - h. Water leakage from utilities, such as water or sewer lines; and,
 - i. Alteration of the natural drainage.
- .7 Locate new development outside of flood-prone areas.
- .8 Only allow uses that are unlikely to result in the loss of life or property damage, such as open storage, agriculture, and recreation in flood-prone areas.
- .9 Prohibit new development within 7.5 metres of the natural boundary of a lake, within 30 metres of the natural boundary of any other watercourse or less than 0.6 metres above the two-hundred-year flood level, where it has been determined, or 1.5 metres above the natural boundary of a lake or any other watercourse where the two hundred year flood level has not been determined as per the Province of BC, Flood Hazard Area Land Use Management Guidelines¹¹.
- .10 Regularly update the District Wildfire Risk Mapping to ensure it reflects changing climate realities.
- .11 Continue work on the District Flood Hazard mapping initiative and incorporate its findings into appropriate District bylaws and documents as it is finalized.

¹¹ https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/air-land-water/water/integrated-flood-hazard-mgmt/flood_hazard_area_land_use_guidelines_2017.pdf

5.6.2 BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT & CONTAMINATED SITES

Brownfield sites have been previously used for industrial purposes or certain commercial uses. They may be contaminated by low concentrations of hazardous waste or pollution, but they still retain the potential to be reused once remediation occurs. According to Provincial guidelines, remediation must occur before any development takes place on such sites.

This section outlines objectives and policies for the development of brownfields and contaminated sites.

5.6.2.A Objectives

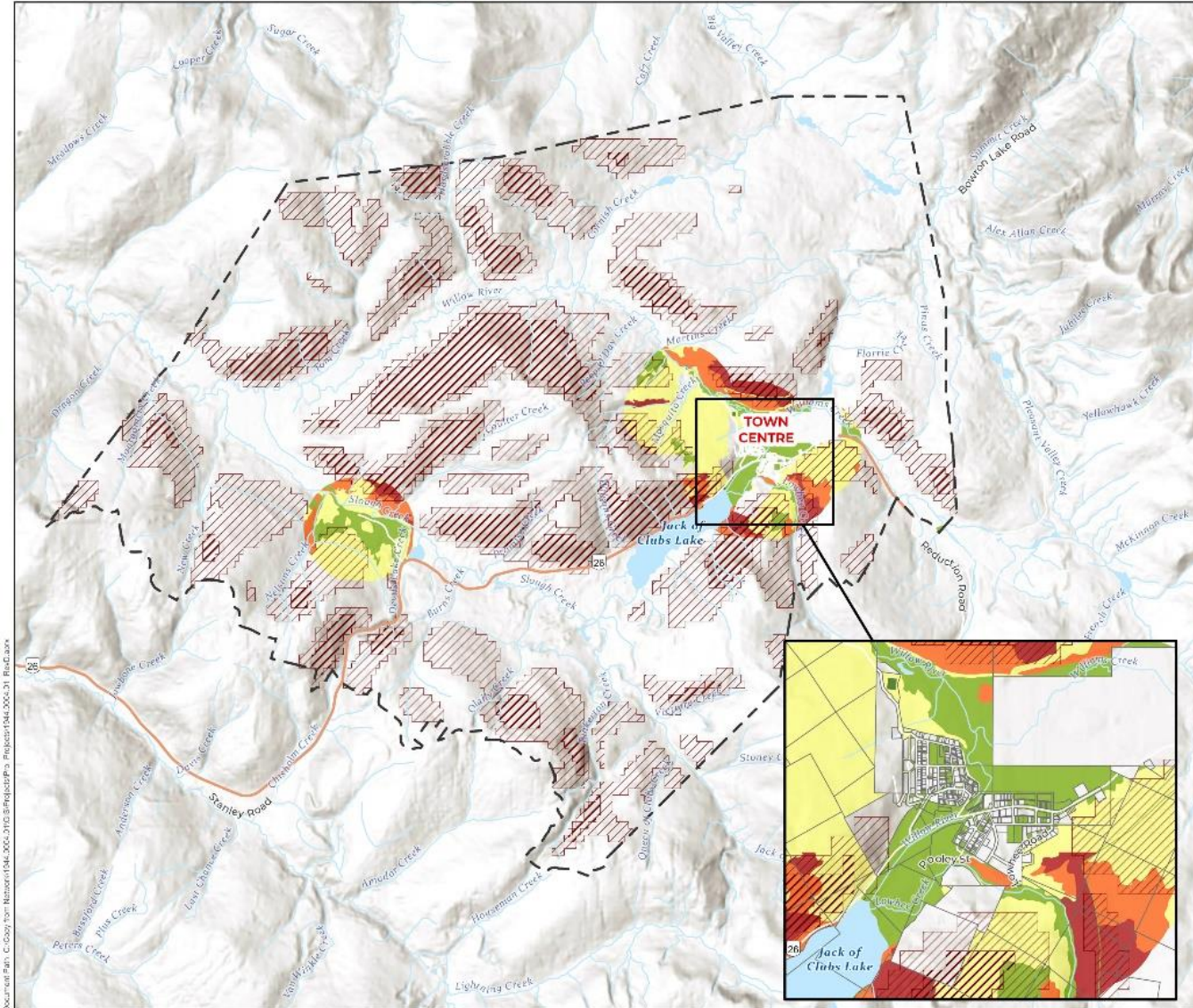
It is the objective of Council to:

- .1 Promote and, where possible, facilitate the remediation and re-development of contaminated sites.

5.6.2.B Policies

It is the policy of Council to:

- .1 Partner with other governments and the private sector to undertake brownfield remediation and increase awareness of brownfield redevelopment potential where feasible.
- .2 Comply with provincial legislation for identifying potentially contaminated sites prior to development.
- .3 Educate the community and raise awareness about the benefits of redeveloping brownfields and contaminated sites.



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Hazards**

- Municipal Boundary
- Slope**
- 20-30%
- >30%
- Fire Threat**
- Very Low
- Low
- Moderate
- High
- Extreme

0 1 2 4 6
Kilometers
Scale: 1:120,000

Figure 18: Hazards

5.7 TRANSPORTATION

Figure 14: Utilities and Road Network includes an overview of the road network in the District of Wells and illustrates the active transportation network in the District of Wells. The Barkerville Highway and Pooley Street serve as main arterials through Commercial Core areas and are the only paved roads in the District of Wells. The local road network in the District of Wells is not paved, and there are no formal asphalt or concrete sidewalks. Despite not having sidewalks, the District of Wells feels like a safe place for pedestrians due to the limited traffic and the compact land use patterns that support walking to destinations within town. As the District of Wells grows, there will likely be a need to upgrade and formalize pedestrian infrastructure to ensure pedestrian safety and comfort.

5.7.1 OBJECTIVES

It is the objective of Council to:

- .1 Develop infrastructure that maintains and enhances the comfort and safety of pedestrians and other active transportation users while accommodating anticipated vehicle traffic associated with tourism and industry.

5.7.2 POLICIES

It is the policy of Council to:

- .1 Develop a centralized parking area or areas to serve the Commercial Core along Pooley Street and Barkerville Highway. The intent of these parking areas will be to provide accessible parking that provides convenient access to tourism destinations and reduces vehicle traffic and parking demand along Pooley Street and Barkerville Highway.
- .2 Develop an active transportation plan to support future pedestrian-oriented and active transportation infrastructure investments.
- .3 Invest in pedestrian-oriented and active transportation infrastructure, including but not limited to separated paths and sidewalks, traffic calming, pedestrian-scale lighting, and vegetated buffers between active transportation corridors and vehicle routes.
- .4 Collaborate with other transportation agencies to develop and manage the transportation system to meet the needs of residents, institutions, businesses, and industry to accommodate all modes.
- .5 Support a road network that avoids industrial traffic travelling through residential and tourist-oriented areas to reduce conflicts with non-industrial road users.
- .6 Prohibit 24-hour heavy truck traffic through the community (except Highway 26 and purpose-built industrial roads) to limit noise impacts and to reduce conflicts with non-industrial road users.
- .7 Support the construction of the Purden Connector Road to Highway 16.



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**Urban Parks, Trails and
 Active Transportation**

- Urban Trail
- Cornish Mountain Trails



Scale: 1:4,000

Figure 19: Parks and Active Transportation

5.8 CLIMATE CHANGE

The impacts of climate change are no longer just projections and have become re-occurring emergencies that communities respond to each year. In 2011, the Cariboo Regional District partnered with the federal government and the Fraser Basin Council to develop a Climate Adaptation Strategy for the Region. The Strategy reinforces that municipalities are critical in addressing and minimizing climate change impacts. The Strategy speaks to the importance of various local government services, such as, but not limited to, regulating land use patterns and development, transportation planning, protecting sensitive environments, managing waste, economic development, protecting source drinking water, and planning for energy supplies.

In 2014 and 2018, the Cariboo Regional District partnered with the federal and provincial governments to deliver BC Agriculture & Climate Change Regional Adaptation Strategies. The Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium reiterates the climate science and impacts outlined in the report¹² based out of the University of Victoria, that predicts climate change impacts in the Cariboo Region will include:

- Decreased snowpack resulting in a shorter winter logging season and may require the assisted migration of tree species to colder climates. If the dry and fire seasons increase in length, this could increase forest fire severity.
- Increases in high-intensity precipitation and seasonal moisture variability could have effects on a variety of habitats.
- Seasonal increase in hot and dry conditions would increase the possibility of water shortages in summer and early fall.
- River flooding events may increase in frequency and magnitude; stream bank erosion and strain on flood protection infrastructure may increase. Stormwater design standards may be inadequate, and seasonal water quality may be reduced.

Objectives and policies for climate change are provided below. However, it is important to note that the goal of achieving sustainable development and reduced climate impacts is woven throughout this OCP in the form of policies and directions related to land use, transportation, utilities and infrastructure, and environmental protection measures.

¹² Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium:
<https://www.pacificclimate.org/analysis/publications/climate-summary-cariboo>

5.8.1 OBJECTIVES

It is the objective of Council to:

- .1 Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the District of Wells by 80% by 2050 from 2007 levels. In 2007, the provincial government calculated the District of Wells' greenhouse gas emissions and completed the Community Energy Emissions Inventory (CEEI). Using this data, plus District of Wells data for fuel heating usage for public buildings, the District of Wells concludes that the 2007 emissions level was 1282 tonnes of CO₂.
- .2 Improve energy efficiency, use of renewable energy, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions for District of Wells-owned buildings and facilities.
- .3 Support land use decisions that create resilient infrastructure that is adaptive to a changing climate.
- .4 Reduce energy use and GHG emissions generated by new and existing buildings developed in the District of Wells.

5.8.2 POLICIES

It is the policy of Council to:

- .1 Pursue and support grant opportunities to support more energy-efficient buildings and resilient public infrastructure.
- .2 Support and promote educational opportunities to increase community awareness about energy efficiency, renewable energy alternatives, and green building techniques.
- .3 Develop municipal infrastructure that is climate change resilient.
- .4 Encourage active transportation to reduce dependency on fossil fuels.
- .5 Encourage the use of high-efficiency wood stoves and pellet stoves as alternatives for residential heating.

5.9 RECONCILIATION WITH FIRST NATIONS

Reconciliation with First Nations Peoples is a priority for the District of Wells. Although there are no First Nations reserves within the community, the District recognizes that it falls within the traditional territories of several surrounding Nations, including the Dakelh (Carrier) and Secwepemctsin (Secwépemc or Shuswap), Lhtako Dene, Nazko, Lhoosk'uz, Ulkatcho, ?Esdilagh, Xatśúll, Simpcw, and Lheidli T'enneh. The District recognizes its responsibility to work towards reconciliation with First Nations Peoples and has developed the following Objectives and Policies.

5.9.1 OBJECTIVES

It is the objective of Council to:

- .1 Strengthen relationships with surrounding First Nation communities and communicate a desire for future collaboration and commitment towards reconciliation.

5.9.2 POLICIES

It is the policy of Council to:

- .1 Engage with First Nations on land use planning initiatives and future amendments to this plan.
- .2 Work towards implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action.
- .3 Adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- .4 Collaborate with local First Nations on regional economic development initiatives.

5.10 PARKS, OUTDOOR RECREATION & ACTIVE LIVING

The District of Wells is known as a destination for outdoor enthusiasts, whether it be travellers from across the world visiting for a bucket-list Bowron Lakes trip, snowmobilers from across BC looking for backcountry powder, or bikers, hikers, horseback riders, ATV enthusiasts, and skiers wanting to explore the surrounding mountains. The District of Wells is also home to an extensive Nordic ski trail on Cornish Mountain. Many of the District of Wells' trails and recreation assets have historical value, providing a unique opportunity to blend heritage tourism and recreation. In addition, through the Wells-Barkerville Culture and Recreation Centre vision, there are plans for an outdoor education program with nature and place-based learning opportunities. The District of Wells also has urban park spaces, including a playground, baseball diamonds (currently located on contaminated land), a covered outdoor skating rink, and pocket parks. Figure 20: Outdoor Recreation and Trails includes a map of existing outdoor recreation assets in the District of Wells.

The Wells-Barkerville Community Forest is an important part of the recreation landscape in the District of Wells. The Community Forest includes 4,527 hectares surrounding the District of Wells, providing critical views for the community, outdoor recreation opportunities, timber harvesting opportunities, and ecological value.

Trails in the community forest, particularly on the south slope of Cornish Mountain, immediately north of the Wells Townsite area, provide hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing opportunities for residents and visitors. One-quarter of the community forest is defined as caribou habitat, old-growth forest, riparian areas, wildlife tree reserve areas and recreation areas in the forest, and these areas are off-limits to timber harvesting.

Based on feedback received during the engagement process, one of the favourite pastimes for District of Wells residents is simply going for a walk. Many respondents to the survey referenced how they value going for walks and having spots of interest to visit. This was reiterated in the interviews with Wells school students, whose comments primarily focused on the importance of getting outside to spend time with family and friends in nature.

This section of the OCP includes policy direction to support developing and maintaining outdoor recreation assets and increased opportunities for active living. Figure 20: Outdoor Recreation and Trails includes an overview of existing and future recreation amenities and infrastructure.

Did you know?

The District of Wells has an extensive trail network that offers year-round outdoor recreation opportunities for both motorized and non-motorized trail users. In the summer, hikers and mountain bikers can explore the mountains enjoying beautiful views and blossoming alpine meadows. In the winter, the trails are popular for skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling and even dogsledding! Trails are an important recreational feature in the District of Wells and the Wells and Area Trails Society (WATS) actively supports their ongoing improvement and maintenance.

5.10.1 OBJECTIVES

It is the objective of Council to:

- .1 Provide parks, facilities, and outdoor recreation facilities that attract and retain residents and visitors alike.
- .2 Establish parks and outdoor recreation infrastructure and promotional programs that establish the District of Wells as an outdoor recreation destination for people of all ages, abilities, and experience levels.
- .3 Support the vision to develop the District of Wells as a centre for outdoor education in the North.

5.10.2 POLICIES

It is the policy of Council to:

- .1 Develop new park and outdoor recreation infrastructure that is accessible and inclusive for people of all ages and abilities, particularly in urban areas and recreation areas close to town.
- .2 Provide and maintain accessible washrooms where appropriate/feasible.
- .3 Improve and expand trail networks that facilitate safe pedestrian routes and make it easy for tourists to explore and navigate the community.
- .4 Support the initiatives of volunteers and organizations that maintain and develop trail networks and recreation opportunities.
- .5 Promote and support the development of art installations, signage, and other place-making efforts that add interest along walking routes, trails, parks, and outdoor areas.
- .6 Support the development of recreation programming for people of all ages and abilities.
- .7 Advocate for and promote the maintenance of forested slopes within the visual field of the municipality in a manner that is not detrimental to the visual environment of the District of Wells.
- .8 Upgrade and improve infrastructure in parks as they reach their end of life (e.g., playgrounds, benches including memorial benches, picnic tables, etc.).
- .9 Support recreational use of Crown lands where compatible with existing uses. Work with the Crown to establish recreation assets on Crown land and maintain existing assets.
- .10 Support the development of programs and infrastructure that facilitate outdoor education learning opportunities in the District of Wells.
- .11 Build a new playground in the District of Wells.
- .12 Explore the feasibility of new recreation amenities at Jack of Clubs Lake.

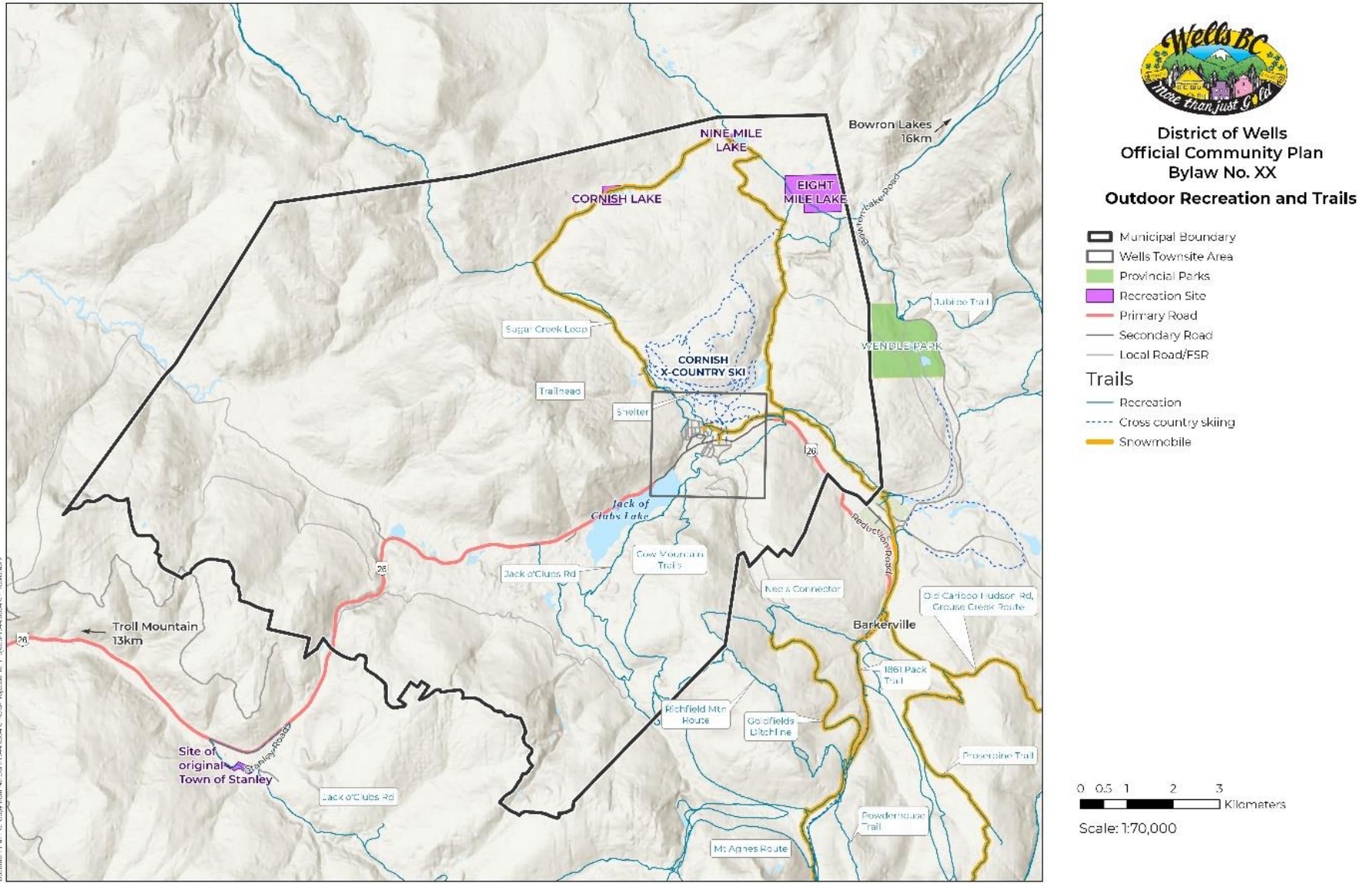


Figure 20: Outdoor Recreation and Trails

5.11 GROWTH MANAGEMENT

This Chapter includes an overview of Growth Management strategies and Figure 21: Growth Management Areas identifies where growth will be prioritized. Growth management policy provides direction for how a community will grow and develop, where growth will and will not occur, and where growth will be prioritized. Growth management is a fundamental tool for achieving sustainability goals because how land is developed influences how people travel around their community, how frequently residents socially interact with each other, and the amount of environmental disturbance that will occur to facilitate growth.

As Section 2.7 outlines, the District of Wells could experience significant change over the next twenty years. If 10% to 20% of new employees from mining or seasonal tourism enterprises choose to relocate to the District of Wells, the population is estimated to increase by approximately 40 to 80 people by 2025. In an enhanced growth scenario, where a new mine opens, and local tourism operations see the expansion of their operations, there would be a significant and immediate need for housing in the District. Depending on how many workers choose to live in town, the need for new housing could range from 25 – 50 additional homes. In comparison, if the District continued “Business as Usual,” demand for new homes could remain static.

As is outlined in Section 5.5, currently, 70% of the District of Wells housing stock is single-family dwellings, and the remaining 30% is multi-family housing (apartments, duplexes, or townhomes). In an Enhanced Growth scenario, the District of Wells could meet its residential land needs with 3.6 – 5.6 hectares (9 – 14 acres) of land developed with a mix of 29% multi-family and 71% single-family. Within the Wells Townsite area, sufficient vacant land meets this development need.

5.11.1 GROWTH MANAGEMENT AREAS

Figure 21: Growth Management Areas illustrates priority areas for growth in the District of Wells and references the following Growth Management Areas:

- 1) **Wells Townsite Area:** The Wells Townsite Area provides a boundary for containing urban development to maintain a compact settlement pattern and minimize development in natural resource lands, environmentally sensitive areas, or hazard areas.
- 2) **Rural and Outdoor Recreation Area:** The Rural and Outdoor Recreation area is intended for natural resource extraction, outdoor recreation, and rural residential living on lots greater than 4 acres serviced by on-site wells and septic.

5.11.1.A Objectives

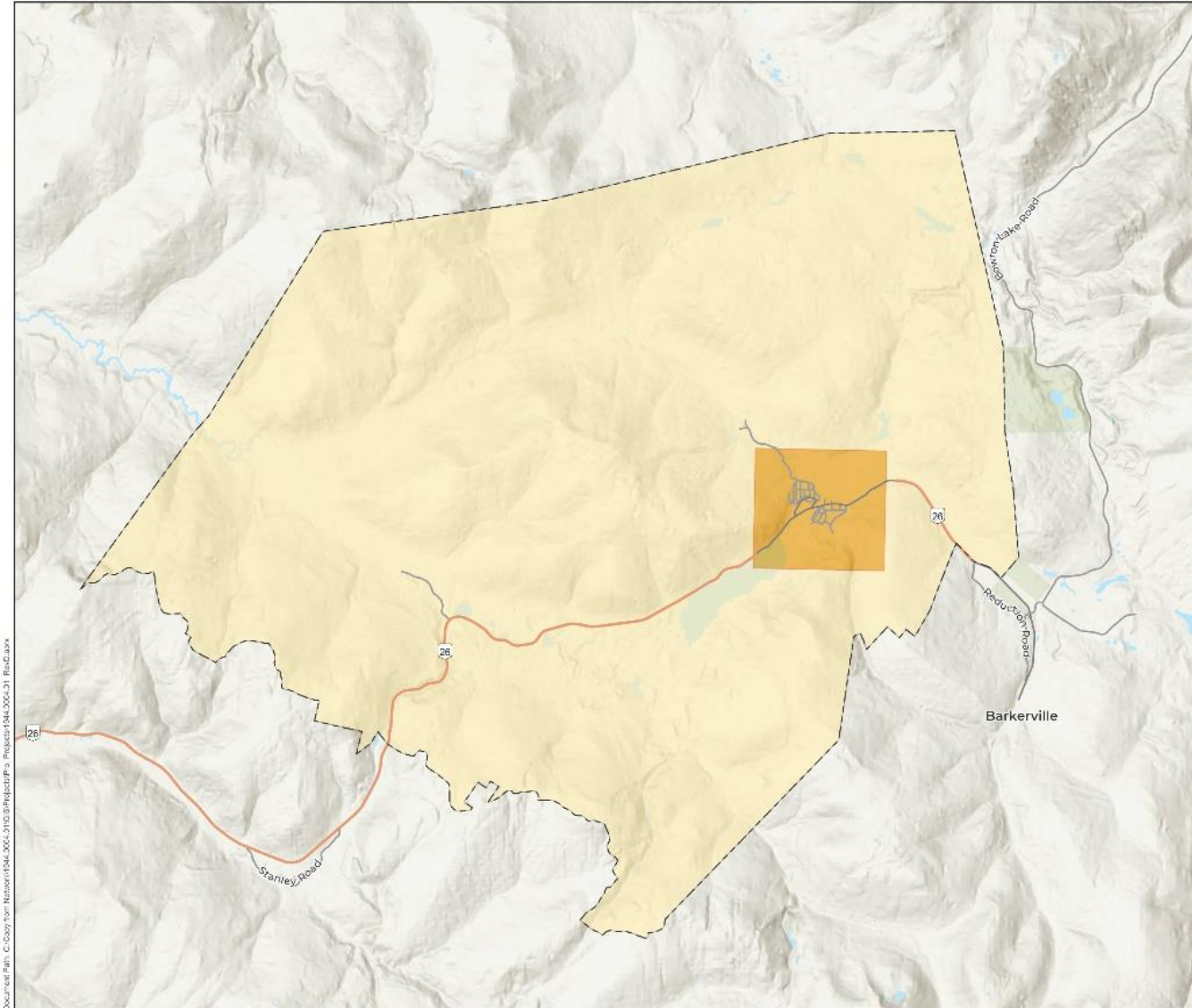
It is the objective of Council to:

- .1 Support growth that allows the District of Wells to continue to be compact and supports sustainable modes of transportation, such as walking and biking.
- .2 Support development that replaces and upgrades existing water, sewer, and road infrastructure and minimizes the District's ongoing operating, maintenance, and replacement infrastructure costs.
- .3 Reduce residential development pressure on natural resource lands and protect environmentally sensitive and hazardous areas.
- .4 Support a strong urban/rural edge that aligns with natural features.

5.11.1.B Policies

It is the policy of Council to:

- .1 Encourage and support growth within the Wells Townsite Area with incentives, District investment, partnerships (including with First Nations), and regulations.
- .2 Support growth patterns similar in size and scale to existing development patterns in the District of Wells.
- .3 Prioritize public investments in the Wells Townsite Area, including capital investments in biking/walking infrastructure, streetscape improvements, parks and other public open spaces, utility upgrades, communications, and energy infrastructure. Repairs and maintenance should also be prioritized in these areas.
- .4 Ensure all new subdivisions in the District adhere to Northern Health guidelines.



**District of Wells
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Bylaw No. XX**

Growth Management Areas

- Municipal Boundary
- Growth Management Area
- Wells Townsite Area
- Rural Resource Area



Figure 21: Growth Management Areas

5.12 SAND & GRAVEL DEPOSITS

Figure 22: Sand and Gravel Deposits identifies locations of sand and gravel tenures within the District of Wells. Sand and gravel are important resources necessary for communities to build new infrastructure, maintain roads, and support industrial activity. If a community does not have a nearby supply of sand and gravel, the transportation costs required to transport sand and gravel can become limiting. Sand and gravel extraction is associated with negative impacts (e.g., noise, dust, air quality, visual aesthetics, etc.), and the policies in the OCP seek to minimize the negative impacts of sand and gravel extraction while ensuring a sufficient supply of these important resources.

5.12.1 OBJECTIVES

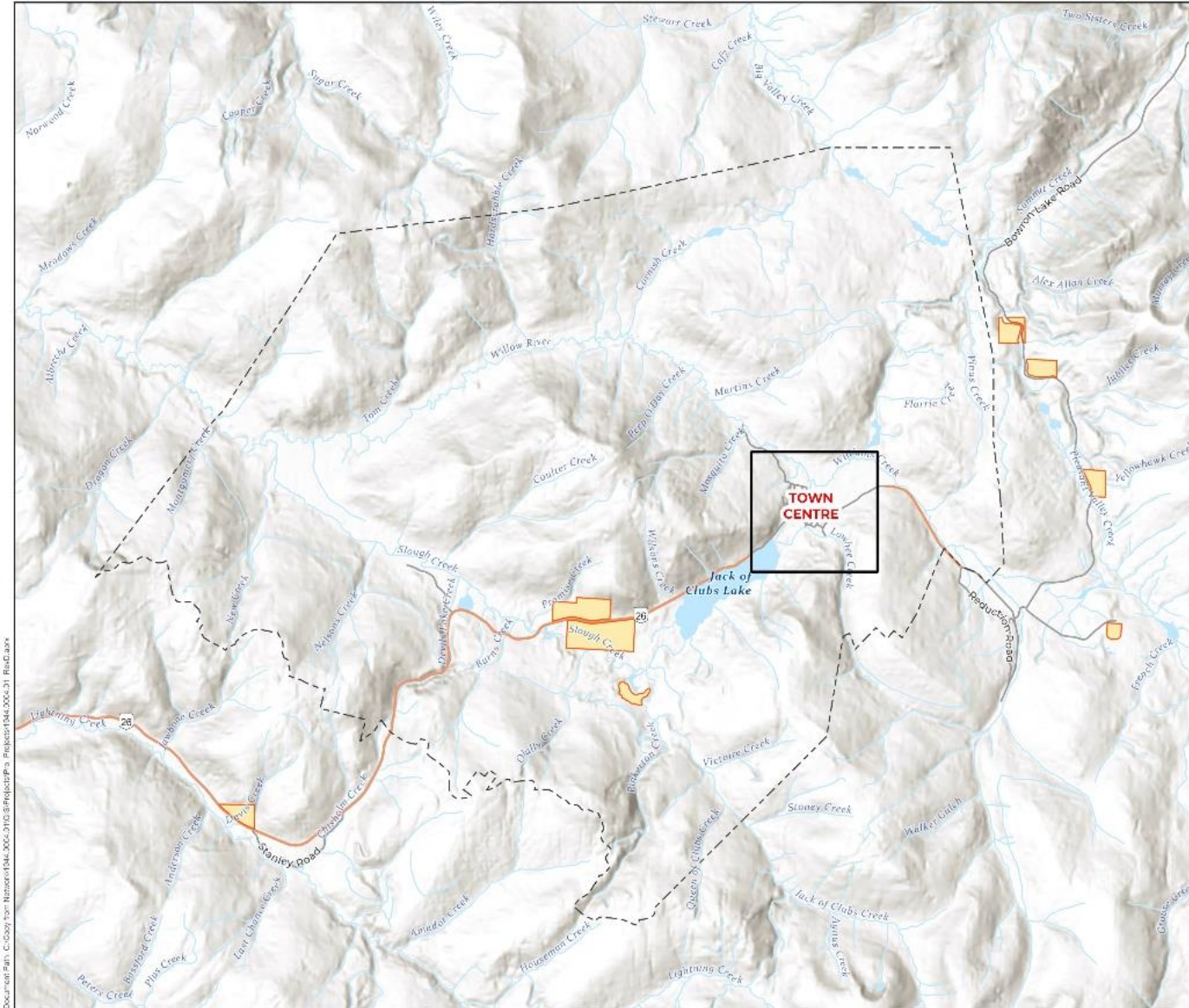
It is the objective of Council to:

- .1 Work collaboratively with the Province, residents, and the aggregate industry to manage aggregate resources in the long term.
- .2 Encourage responsible aggregate removal and deposit that minimizes the negative impacts on residents.
- .3 Direct sand and gravel extraction activities toward sites with minimal environmental impact or where impacts can be mitigated.

5.12.2 POLICIES

It is the policy of Council to:

- .1 Encourage the Province to continue referrals of mineral exploration proposals to the District for comment and due consideration of the impact of resource extraction on surrounding communities and land uses.
- .2 Support using designated Rural and Outdoor Recreation areas for sand and gravel extraction where the uses will not cause a significant visual, auditory, community or environmental impact.
- .3 Collaborate with the Province to ensure new surface leases and permits within 1,000 metres of the townsite area or designated residential areas do not have detrimental impacts on the community's quality of life.
- .4 Consider rezoning applications for the processing of aggregate resources based on any or all of the following criteria:
 - a. Extent of visual screening and other mitigation works proposed;
 - b. Type of processing proposed;
 - c. Prevailing wind direction and the potential for noise and dust;
 - d. Compatibility with adjacent land uses;
 - e. Environmental sensitivity of the site and lands adjacent to potential aggregate resource processing site;
 - f. Accessibility; and
 - g. Characteristics of aggregate deposits and impacts on groundwater resources.



**District of Wells
Official Community Plan
Bylaw No. XX
Sand and Gravel Tenures**

- Municipal Boundary
- Sand and Gravel Tenures

0 1 2 4 6
Kilometers
Scale: 1:120,000

Figure 22: Sand and Gravel Deposits

6.0 DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREAS & TEMPORARY USE PERMITS

The Local Government Act provides the authority for local governments to require and issue Development Permits prior to the issuance of a building permit or approval of a subdivision in certain specific areas where it is believed that the achievement of certain public objectives requires them. The Development Permit system provides the local government with the process and guidelines to influence and enhance development beyond the provisions of the Zoning and Subdivision Bylaws.

6.1 COMMERCIAL CORE

6.1.1 DEVELOPMENT PERMIT DESIGNATED AREA

All lands designated Commercial Core on Schedule A require a Development Permit. This Development Permit Area (DPA) aims to preserve and enhance Well's unique mining-inspired character and design. The Commercial Core Development Permit Area is designated under the following sections of the Local Government Act: The requirement for a Development Permit applies to all commercial, multifamily, and intensive mixed-use developments but not to single-family dwellings.

Section 488 (1) (d) - for revitalization of an area in which commercial use is permitted, and Section 488 (1) (f) - form and character of commercial or multi-family residential development

6.1.2 DEVELOPMENT PERMIT TRIGGERS

The Local Government Act imposes Development Permit requirements in Development Permit Areas. Unless exempted by 7.1.5, a Development Permit must be obtained when any of the following types of development activity occur in the Commercial Core Development Permit Area, in accordance with Section 489 of the Local Government Act:

1. Subdivision of land;
2. Construction, addition, or alteration of a building or other structure; or
3. Alteration of land.

6.1.3 COMMERCIAL CORE OVERVIEW

The Commercial Core area was originally developed during the gold rush years of 1930 to 1935 and still contains many original buildings dating from this period.

Revitalizing and preserving Well's unique mining-inspired character and design have long been recognized as key to the community's economic future.

A "1930s Mining Town" design theme has been established to guide the reconstruction and renovation of existing buildings and the design and construction of new buildings. The Development Permit designation is required to ensure that this design theme is carried out consistently and that it is a vehicle to protect the investments made in heritage resources. The DPA intends to preserve the community's heritage character and provide an attractive visual landscape to encourage and attract visitors and residents.

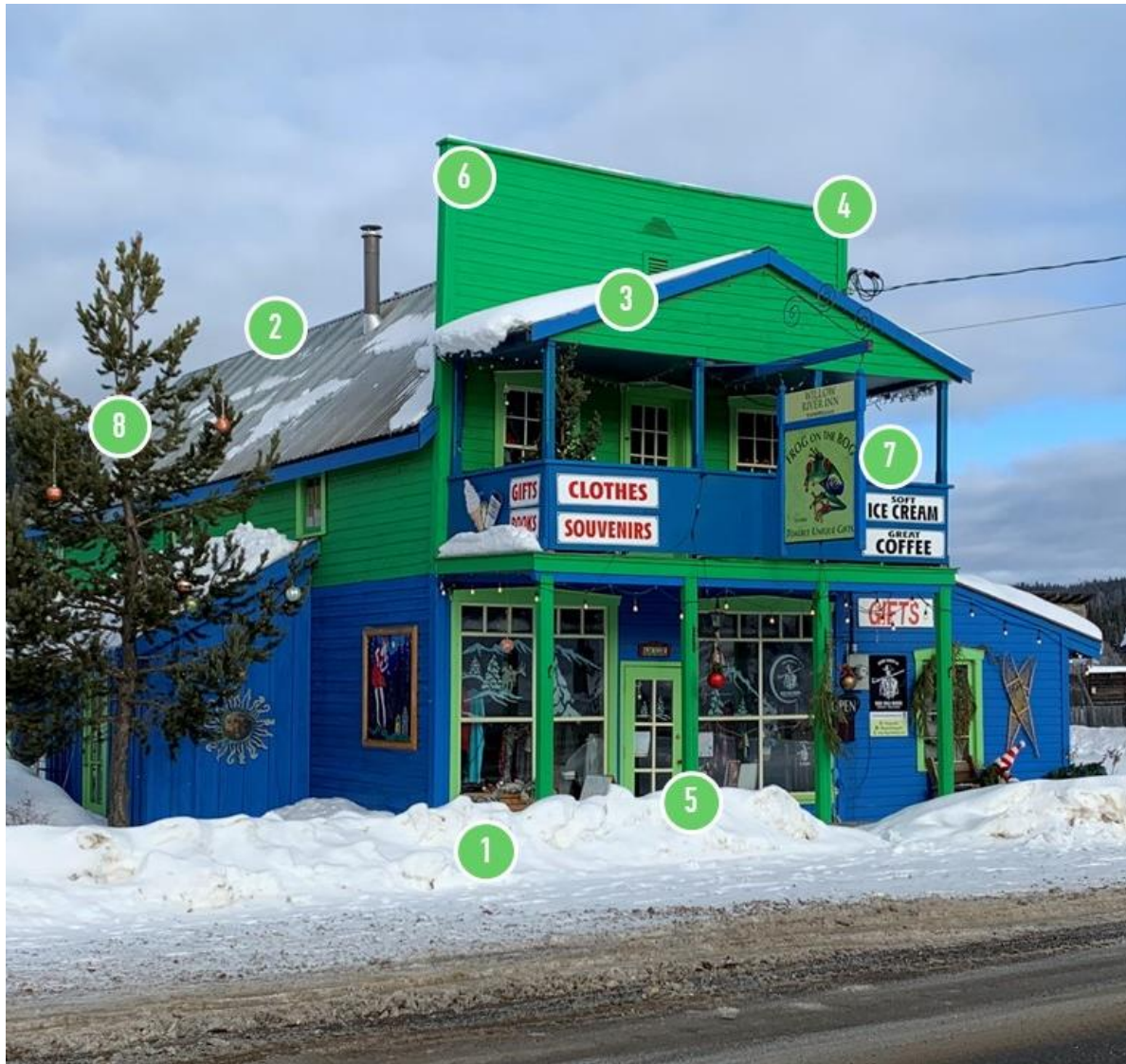
Of critical importance to this Development Permit Area is the preservation and restoration of Pooley Street, Sanders Avenue, and Highway 26.

6.1.4 COMMERCIAL CORE THEME

The purpose of the Commercial Core Development Permit Area is to preserve and enhance Well's unique mining-inspired character and design. The overall design theme is characterized by brightly coloured wooden buildings adorned with contrasting window and door frames and false facades. The core itself is pedestrian-scaled and designed to function in a time before most people used personal vehicles to get around. The Figures on the following pages are photos of existing buildings in the Commercial Core DPA. They are annotated to illustrate specific design and character features that new developments should strive to incorporate. The numbered features are described in more detail in the guidelines provided in the following section.

Did you know?

The community survey revealed that the District of Wells residents are very passionate about the District retaining its charm and small-town character which makes it a unique place to live. They would like future growth and development to complement this character and build upon what the District of Wells is recognized for. Residents want to see older homes renovated to reflect Well's unique mining inspired character and design and for new housing to be similar to existing infrastructure. Residents would also like to see the District of Wells maintained as a walkable and compact community.



Commercial Core DPA Detail Figure 1

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Principal Buildings should be oriented towards the street 2. Gabled roofs 3. Secondary roof forms for building add-ons to enhance character 4. Bright colours encouraged | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Door designs that complement windows 6. False facades in keeping with historical character 7. Arcade signs encouraged 8. Introduce trees wherever possible |
|--|--|



Commercial Core DPA Detail Figure 2

1. Varied rooflines and massing for visual interest
2. Sufficient roof overhangs
3. Siding detail, narrow horizontal profile with vertical boards at edges
4. Well-defined window casings and mullions
5. False facades in keeping with historical character
6. Building signs that reflect the character of the tenant or use

6.1.5 COMMERCIAL CORE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT GUIDELINES

Development permits issued in these areas shall be in accordance with the guidelines set out below, provided that the intention is that there will be a greater need for requirements respecting the character of the development in accordance with these guidelines in the Commercial Core and that not all the guidelines referred to below may apply to development outside the Commercial Core area:

BUILDING SITING AND ORIENTATION

1. The shape, siting, and form of new buildings in the Development Permit Area should correspond with that of existing buildings.
2. In the Heritage Core, buildings should be close to the street. On-street parking (i.e., parallel or angular) and landscaped open space (e.g., treed boulevard) are permitted between the building and the street. Space for pedestrians, commercial activity, and snow clearing and storage is encouraged between the building and the street.
3. For sites with two or more buildings, the principal building should be closest to the street, with secondary buildings located to the side or back of the principal building.
4. Natural features (e.g., creeks, specimen trees) and unique site or neighbourhood conditions (e.g., heritage buildings, sculptures) should be respected.
5. For stand-alone buildings on a site, the front of the building and the main entrance should face the principal street. **(Commercial Core DPA Detail Figure 1 – Detail 1)**
6. Where there are two or more buildings on a site, the front of the building and the main entrance may face the principal street or the public open space between the buildings.

BUILDING MASSING AND FORM

1. Site design should consider the preservation and enhancement of view corridors to open areas and viewscales.
2. Buildings shall be sited to ensure that any adjacent residential properties have visual privacy and protection from site illumination and noise.
3. Building massing should respond to a human scale with materials and details proportionate to human height and provide visual interest at the street and sidewalk level. Low eave lines or one-storey add-on elements (e.g., overhang, porch, arcade) can be used to achieve this.
4. Buildings should create visual interest by providing variations in height, rooflines, and massing. **(Commercial Core DPA Detail Figure 2 – Detail 1)**
5. Buildings should avoid building plans that are repetitive or monolithic.

6. Buildings with a significant mass or large facade area should be broken down into smaller masses. This may be done by adding building forms that reflect examples of 1930s rural architecture. The need to reduce the apparent bulk of the building decreases as the distance between the building and the nearest public sidewalk or open space increases. Similarly, those areas of the building with a pedestrian focus (e.g., entrances, patios, walkways) should also have a reduced bulk and an emphasis on a pedestrian scale.
7. Garages should not be visually prominent, mitigated through the use of staggered setbacks and varied orientation, materials, scale, and finishes.
8. Building massing should allow for adequate snow clearing and storage space.

BUILDING ROOFS

1. Roofs for principal buildings are usually gabled, having a peak that runs the length of the building and a roof that slopes away on either side of the peak at an equal pitch. **(Commercial Core DPA Detail Figure 1 – Detail 2)**
2. Roof overhangs should be 300 millimetres to 600 millimetres. **(Commercial Core DPA Detail Figure 2 – Detail 2)**
3. Secondary roof forms (e.g., gables and shed roofs for building add-ons, covered porches, dormers, and cupolas) are encouraged where they enhance the form and character of the building. **(Commercial Core DPA Detail Figure 1 – Detail 3)**
4. Rooftop mechanical equipment shall be hidden behind screens or parapets designed as an integral part of a building to conceal such equipment.
5. The use of metal roofing materials should be prioritized where appropriate.
6. Snow should be positively shed or positively retained. Snow diverters or snow retainers should be designed as an integral part of the roofscape.
7. Fully protect building entrances and pedestrian routes from snow shed and ice accumulation utilizing angled roofs, dormers, canopies or other means
8. Roof runoff should be collected and directed to planting areas or drains. Internal storm drainage or stormwater retention may be required.
9. All stairs and ramps providing access to buildings should be roofed.

BUILDING FACADES

1. A commercial building may be constructed of any material acceptable under the building code with the front and visible sides covered by appropriate siding such as horizontal, narrow profile (3 – 6 inches wide) wood siding with vertical corner boards, asphalt shingles, composite material or logs. Aluminum or vinyl siding, imitation brick or stone, concrete block, plywood, cardboard sheet, and rough wood siding will be discouraged. Windows should be wood-framed and many-paned. Doors should be made of wood and should be framed. The overall design should be cohesive and representative of a commercial building in the 1930s. **(Commercial Core DPA Detail Figure 2 – Detail 3)**

2. Large blank walls should not dominate the buildings, and where windows/dormers/bays are not possible, landscaping should be used to mitigate the blank walls.
3. In general, the use of materials should remain consistent for the entire building or the individual masses/components of the building. Secondary building components (e.g., add-ons) may have different materials or use the same material in a different manner than the primary mass of the building.
4. Incorporate FireSmart principles and materials.

COLOUR

1. There is no requirement to follow a heritage colour scheme. However, the innovative use of colour, which has been used by other resort communities such as Silver Star, is encouraged. Multi-colour paint schemes are encouraged.
2. Bright and eclectic colour schemes are encouraged. **(Commercial Core DPA Detail Figure 1 – Detail 4)**

WINDOWS

1. The ground floor level of the front facade should be relatively transparent and can have a high proportion of windows. Ground-level side and back facades that do not front on a street or pedestrian open space should be transparent and should have more wall area than window opening area.
2. Large panes of glass are not characteristic. A window opening divided by mullions or partitions into two or more smaller openings is preferred. This applies to large display windows, transom windows, single windows, and windows in doors.
3. Windows should be deeply recessed. Facades where the window and wall planes appear nearly flush, producing a flat appearance, are inappropriate.
4. Windows should have clearly defined casing and mullions. **(Commercial Core DPA Detail Figure 2 – Detail 4)**
5. Reflective glass and reflective window coverings or films are not appropriate.
6. Large windows should not face directly onto adjacent properties.

DOORS

1. The front entrance doorway may be flush with the facade or recessed. Recessed doorways provide an opportunity to increase the area of a display window. Doorways and entrances that project out from the facade are not appropriate.
2. Doorways should be built and designed to shelter people from rain and snow.
3. The door design should complement the design of the window openings and the overall facade. **(Commercial Core DPA Detail Figure 1 – Detail 5)**

FEATURES AND APPURTENANCES

1. Exterior design guidelines shall apply to the parts of a building visible from the street(s). Council may be exempt from the guidelines for parts of the building that do not have a significant visual impact on the streetscape.
2. False facades, decorative cornices, heritage fascias, and other appropriate embellishments will be encouraged, and they should have a cornice or cap feature on their top edge. **(Commercial Core DPA Detail Figure 1 – Detail 6 & Commercial Core DPA Detail Figure 2 – Detail 5)**
3. Structural appurtenances (e.g., dormers, arcades, porches, balconies, add-ons or attached room/shed structures) should be used to provide a more pedestrian scale and reflect the character of traditional agrarian architecture in the area.
4. False facades and parapets may be used on the fronts of commercial buildings to screen the building mass behind and provide an identity unique to that building or use.

SIGNAGE

1. Signs shall be in keeping with the District of Wells heritage theme and should be considered part of the overall building design. Lettering, size, support structure and material will contribute to the theme.
2. Signs should provide information and direction at a pedestrian scale.
3. Building signage should reflect the character of the tenant or use in the building. The location and nature of the sign should be considered as an integral part of the facade and not as an afterthought. **(Commercial Core DPA Detail Figure 2 – Detail 6)**
4. Facade-mounted, doorway, hanging, and arcade signs are encouraged, as are sign bands and window-painted signs. Direct painting of signage onto the facade is also acceptable. **(Commercial Core DPA Detail Figure 1 – Detail 7)**
5. In the Wells Townsite area or a main street area, pole-mounted, free-standing, awning, trailer, and billboard signs are not appropriate.
6. Backlighting and neon lighting are discouraged in favour of mounted spotlighting of the sign.

LIGHTING

1. Outdoor site lighting should be provided for walkways, sidewalks, arcades, driveways, parking lots and loading areas to enhance personal safety and site security.
2. Lighting should be directed and/or shielded to provide light to the facility or area intended to be lit. “Spillage” or “overthrow” of light to adjacent buildings and uses is discouraged.
3. Facade lighting of buildings is discouraged, as is lighting of the site from building-mounted lights. High mast area lighting is inappropriate.
4. Colour temperature of light should be warm and soft. Cool tones should be avoided.

5. Where possible, the use of energy-efficient LED lights is encouraged.

LANDSCAPING

1. Buildings and vehicle areas should be sited and articulated to provide positive outdoor space for pedestrian activities (e.g., walking, social gatherings, shopping, outdoor eating, and entertainment).
2. Building edges and corners should be softened with landscaping and planting.
3. Outdoor storage areas and waste containers should be screened with walls, fencing, hedging, planting, other screening materials, or a combination of these materials.
4. The development should introduce trees wherever possible. **(Commercial Core DPA Detail Figure 1 – Detail 8)**

OTHER

1. Buildings and structures should be permanent in nature and should not appear to be temporary structures or trailers.
2. The hours of operation of restaurants, clubhouses, licensed premises and other ancillary uses associated with recreation commercial development should be regulated to minimize the impacts such activities may have on adjacent properties.

6.1.6 EXEMPTIONS

A Commercial Core Development Permit is not required for:

- Subdivisions.
- Minor text or tenant content changes to existing signage when overall design and colours remain unchanged.
- Any residential building other than one that contains a non-residential use on the ground floor.
- The following minor alterations:
 - Interior renovations
 - Exterior maintenance requiring only the repair or replacement of existing surface materials and colours.
 - Changes to plant material in established landscaped areas.
 - An alteration which is limited to the addition, replacement or alteration of doors, windows, building trim or roofs.

6.2 TEMPORARY USE PERMITS

A Temporary Use Permit (TUP) is a tool to allow a short-term use that does not comply with the Zoning Bylaw and may be utilized where a condition prevails that warrants such a use for a short period but does not warrant a change of land use designation or zoning of the land.

6.2.1 DESIGNATION OF TEMPORARY USE PERMIT AREAS

The issuance of TUP can be considered in all Official Community Plan designations within the District of Wells.

6.2.2 OBJECTIVES

It is the objective of Council to:

- .1 Avoid conflicts between different types of uses (e.g., residential, commercial, and industrial).
- .2 Provide for temporary approval of transitional uses or uses where uncertainty exists respecting appropriateness or viability of the use and where it is premature to decide upon rezoning and long-term land use rights.
- .3 Ensure that TUPs are not considered a substitute for a rezoning application. In addition to development procedures requirements, TUPs will be considered against the policies in Section 6.2.3.

6.2.3 POLICIES

It is the policy of Council to:

- .1 Give consideration to environmental protection, post-development site restoration, noise and nuisance abatement measures, operational hours, duration of permitted use, traffic management, parking, performance security, and the establishment of buffers or screening.
- .2 Ensure the District's evaluation of a TUP proposal considers the following criteria:
 - a. The use must be clearly temporary, short-term or seasonal in nature;
 - b. Compatibility of the proposal with adjacent uses;
 - c. Impact of the proposed use on the natural environment, including groundwater, wildlife, and all environmentally sensitive areas, and the proposed remedial measures to mitigate any damage to the natural environment as a result of the temporary use;
 - d. Intensity of the proposed use;
 - e. Inability to conduct the proposed use on land elsewhere in the community; and
 - f. Must be reviewed and approved by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure with respect to access to and effect on Provincial Highways.
- .3 Potentially require the applicant for a TUP provide financial security to the municipality, in accordance with the Local Government Act, to ensure that the conditions of the permit are met.
- .4 Potentially require the applicant for a TUP to do the following by a date specified in the permit:
 - a. Demolish or remove a building or structure; and/or
 - b. Restore land described in the permit to a condition specified in the permit.
- .5 Grant Temporary Use Permits for a period of six (6) months.

7.0 IMPLEMENTATION

The District of Wells OCP sets out statements on the broad objectives, policies, and directions for the Plan area. This section includes detailed options for implementing the plan through actions, partnerships, procedures, and updates to existing documents and other legislative tools. The purpose of this section is to set out specific steps the District should take to implement the goals and objectives of the District of Wells OCP. Some of the specific steps are set out in the subsections below.

7.1 ACTIONS, PARTNERSHIPS, POLICIES & BYLAW UPDATES

In addition to implementing the objectives and policies outlined in the plan, the OCP supports pursuing specific actions, partnerships, policies, and bylaw updates outlined in the table below. The items in the table below have been developed to activate the objectives and policies in the OCP.

Table 13: Official Community Plan actions and partnerships.

OCP Section	Actions and Partnerships
5.1 Climate Change & 5.2 Hazards	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove Floodplain regulations from the District of Wells Zoning Bylaw and develop a Floodplain Bylaw to identify floodplain risk and regulate development at risk of flooding. 2. Promote the use of FireSmart building materials and consider enrolling the District of Wells in the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program (FCNRP). FCNRP is a program that provides resources for community-wide action to mitigate wildfire risks. 3. Support and encourage fuel management and treatment initiatives that reduce wildfire risk in the District of Wells. 4. Promote the District of Wells Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan once it is complete and make it publicly accessible. 5. Develop an Emergency Management Plan, as provincial legislation requires. 6. Apply for senior-level government grants to support initiatives that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support making the District of Wells more sustainable and resilient. 7. Support the compact, pedestrian-first development pattern outlined in this Plan. 8. Invest in infrastructure and initiatives that make active transportation (e.g., walking, biking, etc.) the preferred and most convenient mode of transportation in the District of Wells. 9. Participate in senior-level government programs to track and monitor greenhouse gas emissions.

5.3 Water, Air and Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acquire land within sensitive environments for conservation and outdoor recreation uses. 2. Monitor groundwater to ensure a safe drinking water supply for residents. 3. Support community-led initiatives and partnerships focused on environmental education and monitoring sensitive ecosystems. 4. Explore opportunities for partnering with local Indigenous communities on environmental conservation and monitoring initiatives. 5. Regulate tree removal on large, private parcels through the Tree Removal Bylaw.
5.4 Economy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with local business owners and tourism operators on a strategy for welcoming visitors to the District of Wells. 2. Explore the demand for all forms of tourist accommodation. 3. Work with existing industrial partners to ensure jobs for residents and encourage procurement from local businesses. 4. Encourage the development of additional local businesses. 5. Promote the District of Wells as an attractive location for remote workers. 6. Work with utility providers to ensure sufficient capacity for community infrastructure to support future businesses. 7. Support three-phase electricity in the community. 8. Support the Purden Connector Road to Highway 16.
5.5 Social Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply for senior government grants to fund renovations that enhance accessibility in new civic buildings and developments. 2. Play a leadership role in activating the vision set out in the WBCRC Business Plan and Master Plan for community facilities, recreation and parks, including actions such as, but not limited to, facilitating dialogue, leading or supporting grant applications, and facilitating partnerships with industry and major employers.
5.6 Housing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply for funding through the Union of BC Municipalities' Housing Needs Report Program to develop a Housing Needs Assessment, as is required by provincial legislation. 2. If vacation rentals limit housing availability for residents and workers, establish a zone limiting vacation rentals to specific locations. 3. In partnership with industry, heritage and tourism organizations, and other government agencies, lead the development of housing that provides an alternative option to work camps, generates long-term community benefits, and enhances community cohesion.

5.7 Parks, Outdoor Recreation and Active Living	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop funding programs to provide sustainable funding streams for trail maintenance to reduce the burden on volunteers in the District of Wells while allowing volunteer organizations to continue managing and developing trail networks. 2. Consider developing a Parkland Acquisition Policy or Bylaw to require developers to provide parkland or 5% cash-in-lieu of parkland when developing new subdivisions, as permitted under the Local Government Act. 3. Create an active transportation plan that incorporates the existing trail network. 4. Work with the mining proponent and the Province to establish a new park on Jack of Clubs Lake.
6.1 Growth Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop an Asset Management Strategy to determine infrastructure upgrades required to support growth identified in Figure 21: Growth Management Areas and Figure 14: Utilities and Road Network.
6.2 Future Land Use Designations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a Development Procedures Bylaw to provide a consistent and clear process for managing development proposals. 2. Develop a Subdivision and Servicing Bylaw. 3. Require proponents of new residential areas to develop a Neighbourhood Plan to inform new subdivision development. This Neighbourhood Plan could include detailed strategies for street layout and streetscape, lot configuration, trails and parks, environmental protection, and the design of buildings. 4. Explore the feasibility of developing a Development Cost Charges Bylaw to collect fees from developers to support the ongoing costs of infrastructure maintenance.
6.3 Transportation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As and if anticipated growth occurs, develop a Streetscape Plan for the Historic Mixed-Use Core to ensure that the District of Wells continues to be safe, comfortable, and interesting for pedestrians. 2. Apply for senior government grants and foster partnerships to invest in active transportation infrastructure. 3. Support the Purden Connector Road to Highway 16.
6.4 Utilities and Community Infrastructure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct a stormwater study – Currently, the District of Wells has no storm infrastructure. With increased development/paved areas, it may be needed, particularly given the high water table in South Wells.

7.2 MONITORING & EVALUATION

7.2.1 REFINEMENTS

The District will make refinements to the District of Wells OCP as necessary which may include but are not limited to the following:

1. Coordination with changes to provincial legislation (e.g., Local Government Act, Community Charter, etc.).
2. Coordination with new or revised provincial plans and policies related to land use and community issues within the District.
3. Changes to the known geographic extent of Environmentally Sensitive Areas, as determined through the review of plans, reports and applications submitted by project proponents to the District.
4. Minor text changes, revisions and figure updates that do not affect the overall policies and goals of the plan.

7.2.2 OCP AMENDMENTS

An OCP is considered a living policy document. It is intended to adapt to new societal trends and respond to changing circumstances within the community. As such, following careful consideration by the District of Wells Council, policies and land use designations in this OCP may be revised by an amending bylaw under provisions outlined within the Local Government Act.

When an application for amendments is received, the application is circulated amongst District Staff and external agencies for review. Subsequent to this, there is also a legislated requirement to hold a public hearing for the proposed amendments, which is open to all stakeholders and the public.

A comprehensive review of the OCP should occur every five to ten years, with public open houses being held to review all major development proposals before the formal public hearing process.

7.2.3 DEVELOPMENT REVIEW AND PROCEDURES & GUIDELINES

Under Chapter 1, Part 14, Division 6 of the Local Government Act, the District may require applicants for OCP amendments, development permits, or temporary use permits to provide development approval information.

The District will require development information to approve a Development Permit application in areas covered by this plan (Development Approval Information Areas).

The objective of designating the Plan Area as a Development Approval Information Area is to enable the District to understand the anticipated impact of the proposed activity or

development on the community and make a well-informed decision regarding such applications.

Conditions in this section will be used to evaluate all proposed amendments to the OCP for permitting development.

Potential OCP amendments for any proposed development will be evaluated on the following basis:

1. The impact of the proposed development causes unacceptable impacts to the community or environment.
2. The impact of the proposed development negatively affects the quality of life of the District of Wells residents.
3. The level of integration with the overall patterns of development in the District of Wells.
4. Any implications for District finance or assets.
5. Whether or not the development meets the applicable criteria established in the OCP Policies and/or Land Use Regulations.
6. Whether or not the uses proposed are compatible with the permitted uses of adjacent parcels.
7. The impact of the proposed development on public facilities such as parks, trails, public spaces, and/or other community amenities.
8. The impact of the proposed development on groundwater quantity and quality, surface water generated by the proposed development, and the options for collection, storage, and dispersal of such drainage.
9. The impact of the proposed development on community watersheds.
10. The impact of the proposed development on the natural environment, such as adjacent aquatic areas, vegetation, soils and erosion, geotechnical characteristics, topographical features, ecosystems and biological diversity, fish and wildlife, fish and wildlife habitat, environmentally sensitive features, and rare or endangered plant or animal species.
11. The ability of the proposed development to provide on-site water and septic disposal or to connect to community services, if available.
12. The impact of the proposed development on public infrastructure and community services such as water supply, fire protection systems, and recycling.
13. The aesthetic values of the proposed development, such as integration with the natural environment, lighting, noise, and odour.
14. The archaeological impact of a proposed development in areas with high archaeological potential.

In addition to other evaluation requirements, proposals for industrial development and other major projects, such as new mines, will be evaluated in terms of:

1. The project does not negatively affect surrounding areas by generating excessive noise or odours.

2. The project avoids uses or development patterns that detract from the overall quality of the District of Wells as a community.

All evaluations required by this section are deemed to be advisory for the purpose of providing staff and Council with the information needed to evaluate proposed OCP amendments. While a project may satisfy all of the evaluation criteria described above, these are guidelines, and the District is not bound to make a decision (favourable or unfavourable) on the basis of those guidelines.

7.2.4 JUSTIFICATION

The development of lands may have implications concerning the achievement of the objectives of the District of Wells OCP. It is important that the District Council, staff, and members of the local community have sufficient information to form a well-considered opinion about the appropriateness of any proposed future development, its degree of compliance with the OCP and whether any conditions should be placed on the development. The requirement to provide Development Approval Information is intended to provide such information.

7.2.5 LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act, this OCP includes statements and map designations for the area covered by the Plan respecting the following:

1. The approximate location, amount, type, and density of residential development required to meet anticipated housing needs over a period of at least five years.
2. The approximate location, amount, and type of present and proposed commercial, industrial, institutional, agricultural, recreational, resource extraction, and public utility land uses.
3. The approximate location and area of sand and gravel deposits that are suitable for future sand and gravel extraction.
4. Restrictions on the use of land that is subject to hazardous conditions or that is environmentally sensitive to development.
5. The approximate location and phasing of any major road, sewer, and water systems.
6. The approximate location and type of present and proposed public facilities, including schools, parks and waste treatment and disposal sites.
7. Housing policies respecting affordable housing, rental housing, and special needs housing.
8. Targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the area covered by the plan and policies and actions of the local government proposed to achieve those targets.

7.3 DEVELOPMENT REVIEW & PROCEDURES

Conditions in this section are consistent with development approval practices as detailed in the Local Government Act. They will be used to evaluate all proposed amendments to the OCP for permitting development. For the purpose of Sections 484 and 485 of the Local Government Act, development approval information may be required under any of the following circumstances:

- .1 The development results in any of the following:
 - a. A change in Official Community Plan land use designation;
 - b. A change in zoning;
 - c. A requirement for a development permit; or
 - d. A requirement for a temporary commercial or industrial use permit.
- .2 The development may result in impacts on:
 - a. Transportation patterns and traffic flow;
 - b. Infrastructure including sewer, water, roads, drainage, street lighting, and other infrastructure;
 - c. Public facilities such as schools and parks;
 - d. Community services; or
 - e. The natural environment.
- .3 The development could result in other impacts that may be of concern to the residents of the District of Wells, District Staff or Council.

Proposed OCP amendments will be evaluated in light of whether the development:

- a. Causes unacceptable impacts to the community or environment;
- b. Impacts the quality of life of District of Wells residents;
- c. Supports the overall patterns of development of the community;
- d. Impacts District finances and/or assets;
- e. Impacts existing community facilities and pathways;
- f. Causes environmental impacts, including wildlife and hazardous conditions;
- g. Impacts First Nations interests and rights;
- h. Supports community infrastructure;
- i. Meets the applicable criteria established in the OCP Policies and;
- j. Proposes uses that are compatible with the permitted uses of adjacent parcels.

In addition to other evaluation requirements, proposals for commercial, light industrial or heavy industrial development will be evaluated in terms of whether:

- a. The project negatively affects surrounding areas by generating excessive noise or odours;
- b. The project will maintain a high quality and appearance; and
- c. The project avoids uses or development patterns that detract from the overall quality of life in the District of Wells.

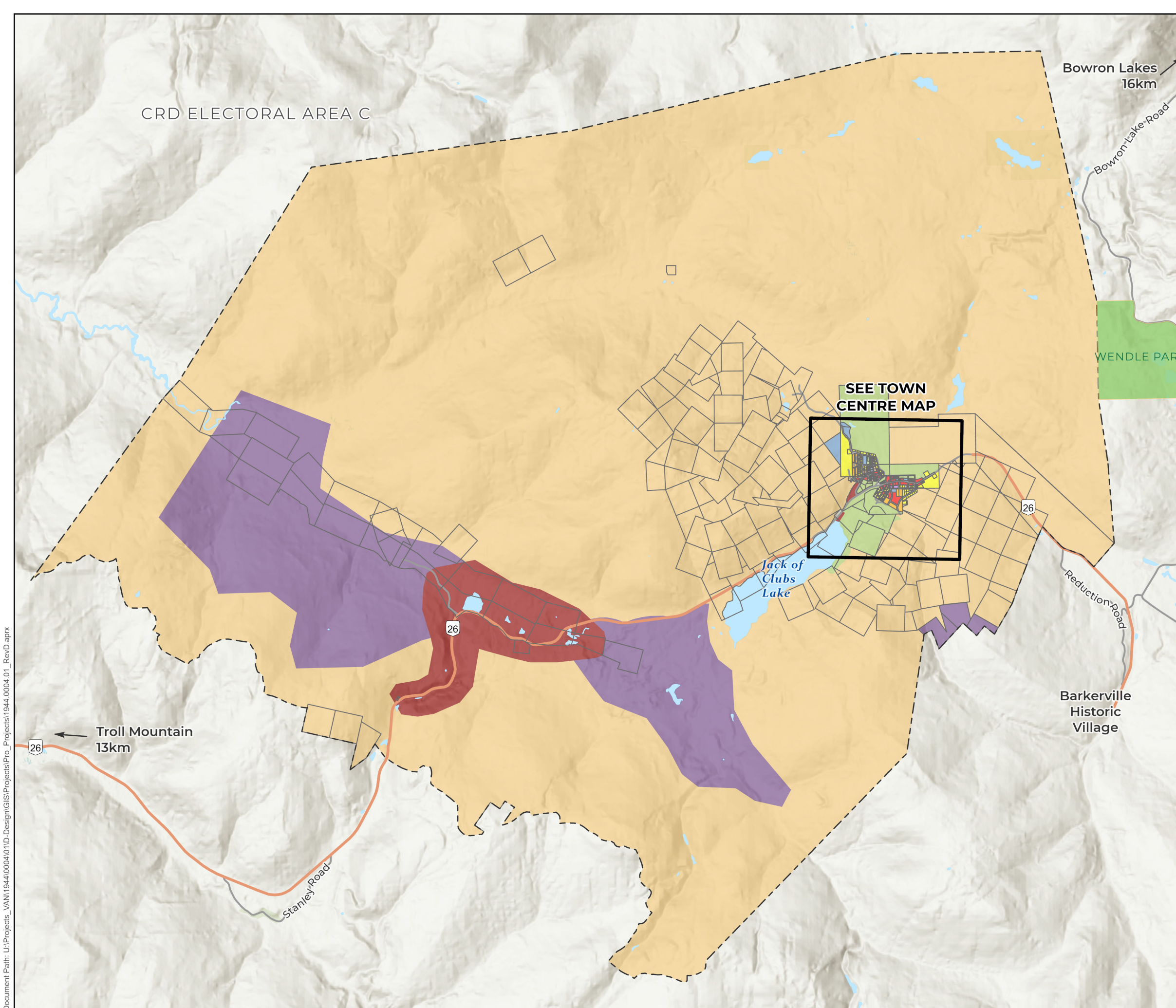
All evaluations required by this section are deemed to be advisory for the purpose of providing staff and Council with the information needed to evaluate proposed amendments to the District of Wells Official Community Plan. While a project may satisfy all of the evaluation criteria described above, these are guidelines, and the District is not bound to make a decision (favourable or unfavourable) on the basis of those guidelines.



**District of Wells
Official Community Plan
Bylaw No. XX**

Future Land Use

- Municipal Boundary
- Provincial Parks
- Land Use**
- Low Density Residential
- Medium Density Residential
- Commercial
- Commercial Recreation
- Residential-Commercial
- Institutional
- Light Industrial
- Heavy Industrial
- Urban Parks
- Rural and Outdoor Recreation



Scale: 1:60,000

SCHEDULE B

Document Path: U:\Projects_VAN\1944\0004\01\Design\GIS\Projects\Pro_Projects\1944_0004_01_RevD.aprx



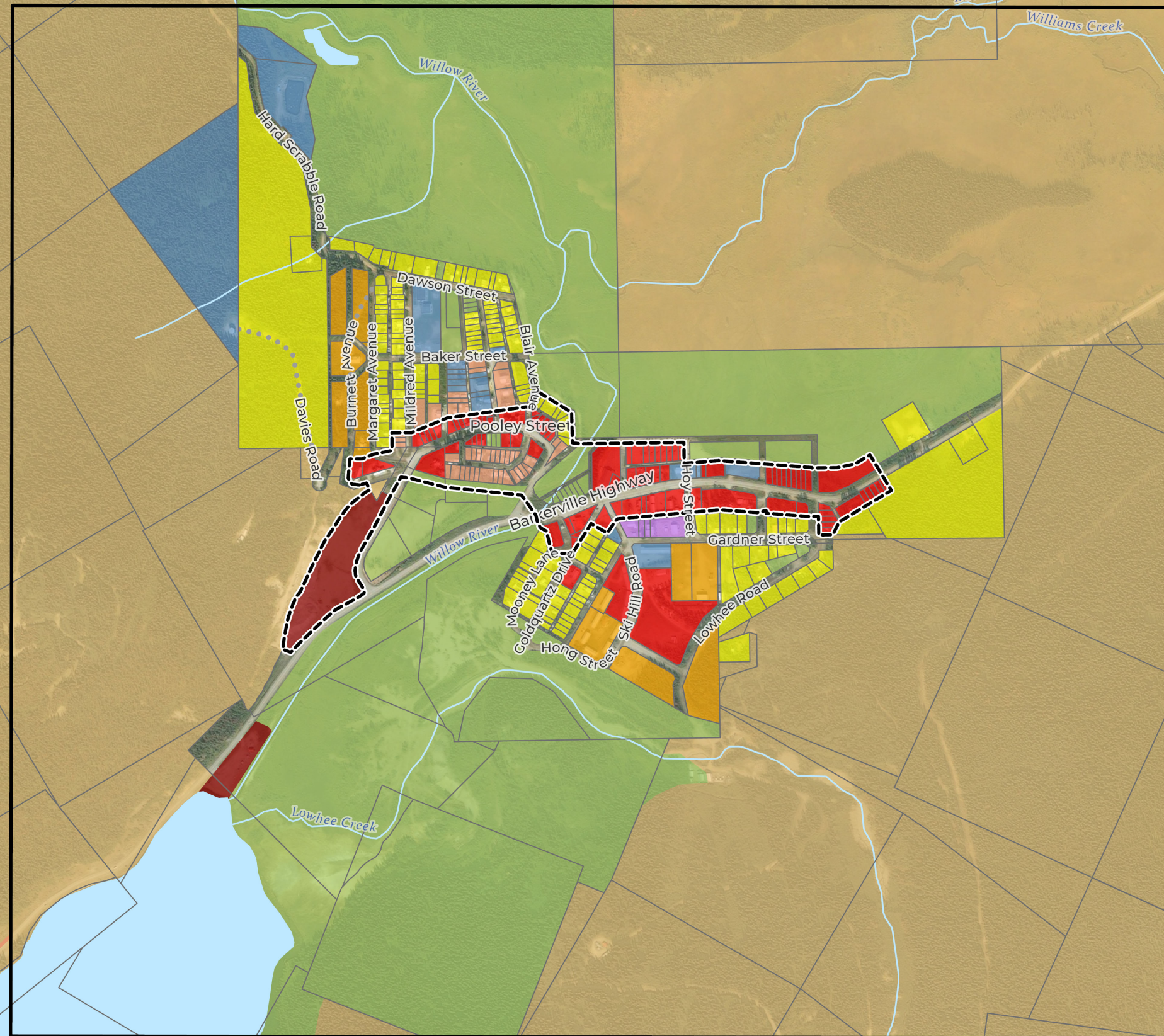
District of Wells
Official Community Plan
Bylaw No. XX

Future Land Use - Town Site

- Commercial Core DPA
- Town Centre Map Extent

Land Use

- Low Density Residential
- Medium Density Residential
- Commercial
- Commercial Recreation
- Residential-Commercial
- Institutional
- Light Industrial
- Heavy Industrial
- Urban Parks
- Rural and Outdoor Recreation

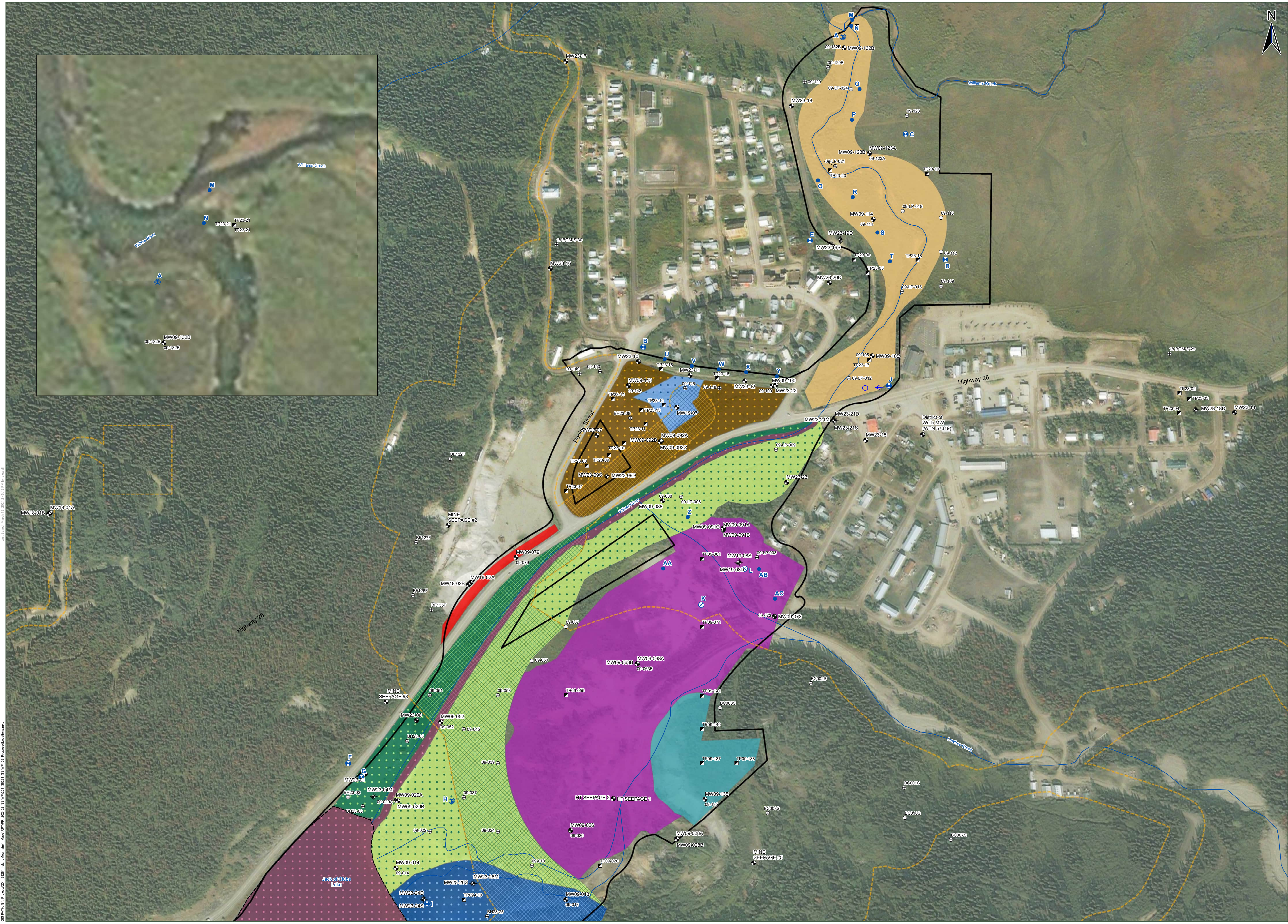


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SCHEDULE A

SCHEDULE C AREAS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Schedule C Areas of Environmental Concern - SLR



LEGEND:

- MW MONITORING WELL LOCATION (PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION)
- MW PAIRED MONITORING WELL LOCATION (PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION)
- MW MONITORING WELL LOCATION - DESTROYED (PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION)
- BH BOREHOLE LOCATION
- TP TEST PIT LOCATION
- BH PROPOSED BOREHOLE LOCATION
- MW PROPOSED MONITORING WELL LOCATION
- MW PROPOSED PAIRED MONITORING WELL LOCATION
- SS PROPOSED SURFACE SOIL SAMPLING LOCATION
- WATERCOURSE
- OSISKO PROPOSED MINE FOOTPRINT
- ESTIMATED AREA OF TAILINGS AND PLACER OUTWASH (SITE) 2011

AREA OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (AEC) 2023

CCSP SITE:

- AEC 1A-1
- AEC 1B-1
- AEC 2A-1
- AEC 2B-1
- AEC 2C-1
- AEC 3A-1
- AEC 4A-1
- AEC 4B-1

OSISKO SITE:

- AEC 1A-2
- AEC 1B-2
- AEC 2A-2
- AEC 2B-2
- AEC 2C-2
- AEC 3A-2
- AEC 4A-2

AREAS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (AEC) 2011

- AEC C - OUTWASH AREA
- AEC H - WASTE ROCK AREA
- AEC L - ISLAND MOUNTAIN WASTE ROCK

NOTES:

1. 2023 MICRODOT CORPORATION, 2023 MAXAR, 2023 CNES DISTRIBUTION AIRBUS DS
2. AEC - AREAS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN
3. 2011 AECs LISTED WERE NOT INVESTIGATED DURING THE 2023 DETAILED SITE INVESTIGATION
4. THE BOUNDARIES OF AEC C - OUTWASH AREA MAY BE AMENDED FOLLOWING REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED LOCAL BACKGROUND SOIL CONCENTRATIONS FOR ARSENIC AND IRON.
5. THE DATA SOURCE FOR SURFACE WATER FEATURES (BC FRESHWATER ATLAS) DOES NOT ALIGN WITH FIELD OBSERVATIONS AT SOME LOCATIONS (EG. WILLOW RIVER AND LOWWEE CREEK). THE TRAJECTORY OF LOWWEE CREEK IS BASED ON A COMBINATION OF INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THE BC FRESHWATER ATLAS, FIELD OBSERVATIONS, AND THE APPROXIMATE AREA OF THE LOWWEE CREEK DYKE IMPROVEMENTS PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT OF WELLS.

SCALE: 1:2,000
 DATE: 2024-03-18

CROWN CONTAMINATED SITES PROGRAM
 ISLAND MOUNTAIN TAILINGS
 DISTRICT OF WELLS, BC

PROPOSED 2024 SUPPLEMENTARY
 SITE INVESTIGATION WORKPLAN

**PROPOSED 2024 SOIL AND GROUNDWATER
 INVESTIGATION LOCATIONS**

FIGURE NO. **3**

DATE: March 18, 2024 PROJECT NO: 201 P38281.00003

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