

TOWNSHIP OF RIDEAU LAKES

POLICY STATEMENT

SUBJECT: PARKS AND RECREATION

SITUATION:

An ad-hoc committee was formed to develop policy on affordable, accessible recreation in the Township of Rideau Lakes that consisted of representation from service clubs, sport groups, health care providers, municipal employees and volunteers within the Township of Rideau Lakes.

There is no formal policy on record to support these endeavors.

STATEMENT OF INTENT:

Council of the Township of Rideau Lakes recognizes and promotes the full participation of all Township residents in recreational programs and services regardless of financial circumstances. Programs and services will be planned, delivered and evaluated to ensure they are affordable, inclusive and responsive to need.

The Township of Rideau Lakes will ensure this policy and supporting programs are implemented and maintained. Management confirms its commitment to ensure Councils intent is followed.

POLICY NAME:

ACCESSING THE RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCE

POLICY:

The Township of Rideau Lakes will continue to maintain and grow the recreational facilities, community groups, parks, trails, access to water, natural landscape, heritage and cultural assets in a self-sustaining manner to maximize opportunities to affordable recreational experiences for the residents of the Township.

POLICY OBJECTIVES:

Council supports the development of introductory, universal and more affordable recreation programs and services by:

- taking advantage of the area's natural landscape, lakes, parks and recreational facilities;
- linking with volunteer groups that exist to support physical activity, leisure programs, heritage, theater and literary;
- working in partnership with the Upper Canada District School Board, Country Roads Community Health Centre, Community and Primary Health Care and other service groups and organizations.

Council will provide guidelines for the establishment of criteria for the review and approval of requests for financial assistance for Township sponsored recreational programs and services delegating such authority to staff by:

- providing training for staff
- supporting reduced fees for multiple youth from the same family and for seniors in Township sponsored recreational programs
- subsidizing the Rideau Lakes Day Camp program up to 35% annually of all operational costs
- provide outdoor recreation facilities such as soccer pitches, ball diamonds, trails, picnic shelters, field houses, outdoor ice rinks, change huts etc. at no cost for all user groups

Council understands the need for continued communication between the Township and its partners toward accessible and affordable recreation by:

- supporting the continuation of and improvement of strong relationships through informal and open communication opportunities of all its partner groups
- sponsoring an annual meeting of all original task force members to discuss and review current affordable, accessible recreation programs and activities

GENERAL:

The Council of the Township of Rideau Lakes recognizes that Parks and Recreation provide both direct and indirect benefits toward everyone's quality of life;

The Council of the Township of Rideau Lakes recognizes that every citizen has the right to participate in safe, affordable and quality Park and Recreation programs that are in harmony with the diversity of our community;

The Council of the Township of Rideau Lakes strongly supports public Parks and Recreation and acknowledges that these services are essential to social and community development;

Therefore, the Council of the Township of Rideau Lakes will endeavor to create, develop, promote and expand Parks and Recreation programs, services and facilities for its residents and visitors in both organized and informal Parks and Recreation activities.