



Fact Sheet 5

Recreation and Tourism

Recreation is an important part in the daily lives of residents in the municipality and is increasingly becoming an integral part of the local economy. Places like community centres, beaches, and legions are well-loved spaces in the communities, while golf courses, outdoor adventure businesses, and other outdoor commercial recreational assets cater to local use and use from visitors from across Nova Scotia and Beyond.

What We Heard



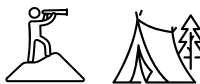
When asked what makes the community a great place to live, the natural environment was top of mind with access to nature claiming the top spot, and access to trails taking the third.



We heard that as tourism continues to grow in Ingonish, residents would like to see more comprehensive planning in the area. We also heard specific feedback around growing the year-round tourism offerings, including accommodations and amenities and developing a 4-season economy in Ingonish.



Preserving public access to trails and beaches is desired by many, as well as investment in recreation opportunities and infrastructure, such as playgrounds, and protecting sensitive ecosystems from development.



Other recurring themes that came up during engagement include protecting important view planes, preserving rural character, and unregulated campgrounds/RV parks

For more information or to share your feedback on the draft documents, please visit www.planvictoria.ca or email the project team at hello@planvictoria.ca



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What is Being Proposed

The proposed planning documents introduce the **Commercial Recreation Zone** to enable and facilitate the growth of indoor and outdoor recreation in the municipality. This includes accommodations, adventure parks, golf courses, bowling alleys and other recreational facilities.

RV Parks and Campgrounds

There has been major growth in the region when it comes to RV Parks and Campgrounds, and while these uses have many potential benefits to a community, they can also have negative impacts on neighbours. With this in mind, RV Parks and Campgrounds are permitted within the Commercial Recreation Zone by Site Plan Approval. This process provides additional oversight and requires the development to meet certain evaluation criteria that limit the impact on surrounding properties.

*Campground means a plot of ground upon which **four or more campsites** are located, established, or maintained for occupancy by camping units as temporary living quarters for recreation, education, or vacation purposes. Camping Unit means any tent, trailer, cabin, lean-to, recreation vehicle or similar structure established or maintained and operated as temporary living quarters for recreation, education, or vacation purposes."*

Tourism Accommodations

The approach taken in the draft planning documents enables tourist accommodations in ways that balance the importance of such accommodations within the wider housing spectrum.

- Tourist accommodations can be permitted as a home-based business on residential properties where the business owner has their primary residence. Up to five sleeping units are permitted on a lot as a home-based business in most residential zones, with more considered via the development agreement process.
- Standalone tourist accommodations, where the property is not the businesses owner's primary residence, are permitted in zones that are focused on commercial uses.

Existing commercial tourist accommodations that do not align with the proposed zoning but are legally operating prior to the adoption of these planning documents would be permitted by the *Municipal Government Act* to continue as a "non-conforming use".

Please note that any tourist accommodation, whether existing or new, is required to be registered with the Province under the *Tourism Accommodation Registration Act*.