

**TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
RECREATION, CULTURE & PARKS BOARD**

Tayles Board Room – Civic Cultural Center – 5018 Waghorn Street
Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 Welcome to the Recreation, Culture and Parks Board Meeting – May 7, 2025
 - 1.2 Call to Order
 - 1.3 Approval of Agenda
-

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- 2.1 Treaty Six Land Acknowledgement - Blackfalds Recreation, Culture and Parks Board acknowledges that we are on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional meeting ground, gathering place, and travelling route to the Cree, Saulteaux (So-toe), Blackfoot, Métis, Dene (De-nay) and Nakota Sioux (Sue). We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.
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3. PRESENTATIONS

- 3.1 None
-

4. BUSINESS

- 4.1 Approval of Minutes from April 2, 2025
 - 4.2 Community Initiatives Grant – Silverbacks Lacrosse Provincials
 - 4.3 Community Garden Relocation Survey Results
 - 4.4 Football Field Update (verbal)
 - 4.5 Abbey Centre Update
 - 4.6 Parks & Facilities Update
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5. CONFIDENTIAL

- None
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6. ADJOURNMENT

MEMBERS PRESENT

Laura Svab, Town of Blackfalds Councillor
Barb Shepherd, Lacombe County Representative
Kayla Marquis, Public at Large
Trent Kroetsch, Public at Large
Shauna Sawchuk, Public at Large

OTHERS ATTENDING

Rick Kreklewich, Director of Community Services
Carol Simpson, Abbey Centre General Manager
Jeff Heindel, Parks and Facilities Manager
Kurt Jensen, Sports and Events Coordinator

REGRETS

Marina Appel, Town of Blackfalds Councillor
Louise Rellis, Public at Large
Kristy Lawrence, Public at Large

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Member Kroetsch welcomed all attending and called the Recreation, Culture and Parks Board Meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

Member Svab moved That the Recreation, Culture and Parks Board approve the Agenda as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

TREATY SIX LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A Land Acknowledgement was read to recognize that the Town of Blackfalds is on Treaty Six territory.

PRESENTATIONS

None

BUSINESS

Minutes

Member Shepherd moved That the Recreation, Culture and Parks Board approve the Minutes from April 2, 2025 as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Disc Golf Course Plan

Kurt Jensen provided an updated plan for the disc golf course to the RCP Board. The course plan consisted of 3 holes at Centennial Park, 3 holes at Pine Crescent Park and 3 holes north of the Iron Ridge Intermediate Campus and St. Gregory the Great School. The RCP Board suggested the McKay Ranch Park as an alternative to the Centennial Park location as the disc golf course holes cross several walking trails. The next step is to talk with the Central Alberta Disc Golf Association and Optimist Club to discuss the proposed layout.

Member Marquis moved to explore the disc golf plan options with the Optimist Club and Central Alberta Disc Golf Association with the McKay Ranch location as a suggested alternative to Centennial Park.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RCP Board Terms of Reference

The RCP Board was tasked with reviewing the Board's Terms of Reference as well as comment/provide suggestions on the draft Council Committee Bylaw. It was suggested that item 6.14 of the Bylaw be changed to 2 consecutive terms. The Board also agreed to a minimum of 4 meetings with the possibility of scheduling the meetings quarterly.

Member Svab moved that the RCP Board Terms of Reference be amended to a minimum of 4 meetings per year and suggested a change to draft Council Committee Bylaw from 3 consecutive terms to 2.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Abbey Centre Update

- Manager Simpson presented the monthly highlights

Parks and Facilities Update

- Manager Heindel presented the monthly highlights

The Recreation, Culture and Parks Board received the items as information.

Chair Kroetsch adjourned the Recreation, Culture & Parks Board Meeting at 7:35 p.m.

-Original Signed-

Trent Kroetsch, Chair

-Original Signed-

Rick Kreklewich, Director of Community Services

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES GRANT APPLICATION

**Please refer to the Community Initiatives Grant Information Package prior to filling out this application*

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Organization/
 Group Name: Blackfalds Silverbacks Lacrosse Team

Contact Person: Deneen Weik Phone Number: 403-304-2700

Mailing Address & Postal Code: 23-Pallo Close Red Deer, AB

Email Address: dweikbower@gmail.com

Website
 (if applicable):

Social Media
 (if applicable):

Brief Organization Description:

Blackfalds Silverbacks are a 21 and over Lacrosse team that has been based out of the community for more than a decade and plays a 12 game regular season. The Silverbacks won the North Division last year and hosted Provincial playoffs, in which we took 2nd place. This year Silverbacks will be playing out of the South Division and again hosting Provincials July 4-6, 2025

INITIATIVE INFORMATION

Dates/Times: July 4,5,6/2025

Location(s): Eagles Building Center (smaller arena)

Please provide a brief description of the initiative?

We would like to provide coolers of water bottles to the fans, families, officials & teams over the weekend along with in players dressing rooms. Saturday we would like to provide burgers, chips & pop to all. It brings 4 teams of 25 plus families and fans. We also secured a time clock official for the entire weekend last year which was excellent. The final Gold Medal game attracted numerous spectators. We are aware and no money will be allocated or spent on alcohol. We are aware and will not charge for the burgers and chips, no money will be made off the generous grant allocation.

How does the initiative fulfill a need with the community?

The need fulfillment with the community is primarily entertainment. There is no admission fee so this makes it affordable and accessible for all. The town of blackfalds will have an economic increase due to the necessity of accomidation and consumer spending. Raising awareness in the younger levels of lacrosse that fitness and sports doesn't have to end at age 18/graduation.

Personal information on this form will be used strictly for obtaining the prescribed consent. This information is collected under the authority of Section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP) and will be protected under Part 2 of the Act. Questions regarding the collection and use of this information may be directed to the Records Management & FOIP Coordinator at foip@blackfalds.ca or by phone at 403.885.6370.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

How does the initiative encourage community participation?

I have already communicated with the younger levels of lacrosse teams, encouraging them to come out to watch, shared our regular season schedule and free admission along with the hosting of a Provincial Event for the 2nd year in a row. We encourage the community to volunteer with locating a bbq, cooking burgers and set up and clean up of the event.

What is the cost to attend your program or event?

The cost last year for the provincial hosting was \$2500 spent on burgers, buns, condiments, pop, ice, plates chips and was very much appreciated by hundreds of players and fans and families and the Town of Blackfalds were especially commended by the Provincial Committee in attendance.

Is your group/organization receiving funding (donations, grants, sponsorship, other revenues) from other sources?

The provincial lacrosse association does provide money that is used towards floor time and on floor officials. We allocated grant money as an honorarium to secure a stable time keeper for the entire weekend which allowed our team to focus on playing. Over the week end we have 7 games. The men pay \$500.00 per player for the regular season play to cover the season cost of the floor and officials.

How will the initiative provide a positive and lasting impact on the community?

The local lacrosse community **STILL** talk about the amazing facilities, the Fans often ask me if they can get a schedule to follow the Silverbacks again this year and are thrilled to be chosen to host again. Provincials of 2024 raised interest and the sporting event of lacrosse. It is a very family oriented level of lacrosse with the age 21 and up, several in their 30's therefore having wives and children in attendance. Very high level and skilled players promoting the game of Lacrosse.

INITIATIVE BUDGET

**Please fill in the anticipated budget for your program/event or provide an attached budget*

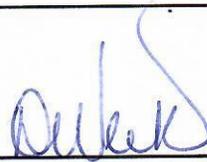
Revenue:	Value \$	Details
Grants	n/a	
Donations	n/a	
Sponsorships	n/a	
Other Revenues	n/a	The cost to play regular season is 500 plus ins per player used to pay for floor time and officials in reg season.
Grant Amount Requested	2500.00	
Total Revenues:	2500.00	
Expenditures:		
Materials	0	
Artist/Instructor/Performance Fees	250.00	1 constant time box keeper for 7 games
Promotional Expenses	225.00	If we can locate a promotional item at a resonable cost
Administrative Costs	0	
Insurance, Licencing	0	
Other Costs	2000.00	Food and beverage burgers, buns, condiments, ice, water, pop chips, bbq and 2 cooks pizza will be provided after the gold medal game.
Total Expenditures:	2500.00	
Deficit:		

Additional Information:

The funds to purchase items for the provincials will be locally sourced from the Town of Blackfalds whenever possible. I will provide a full accounting of all expenses.
 I look forward to your reply.

Deneen Weik

Name of Applicant (please print)



Signature of Applicant

April 14/2025

Date

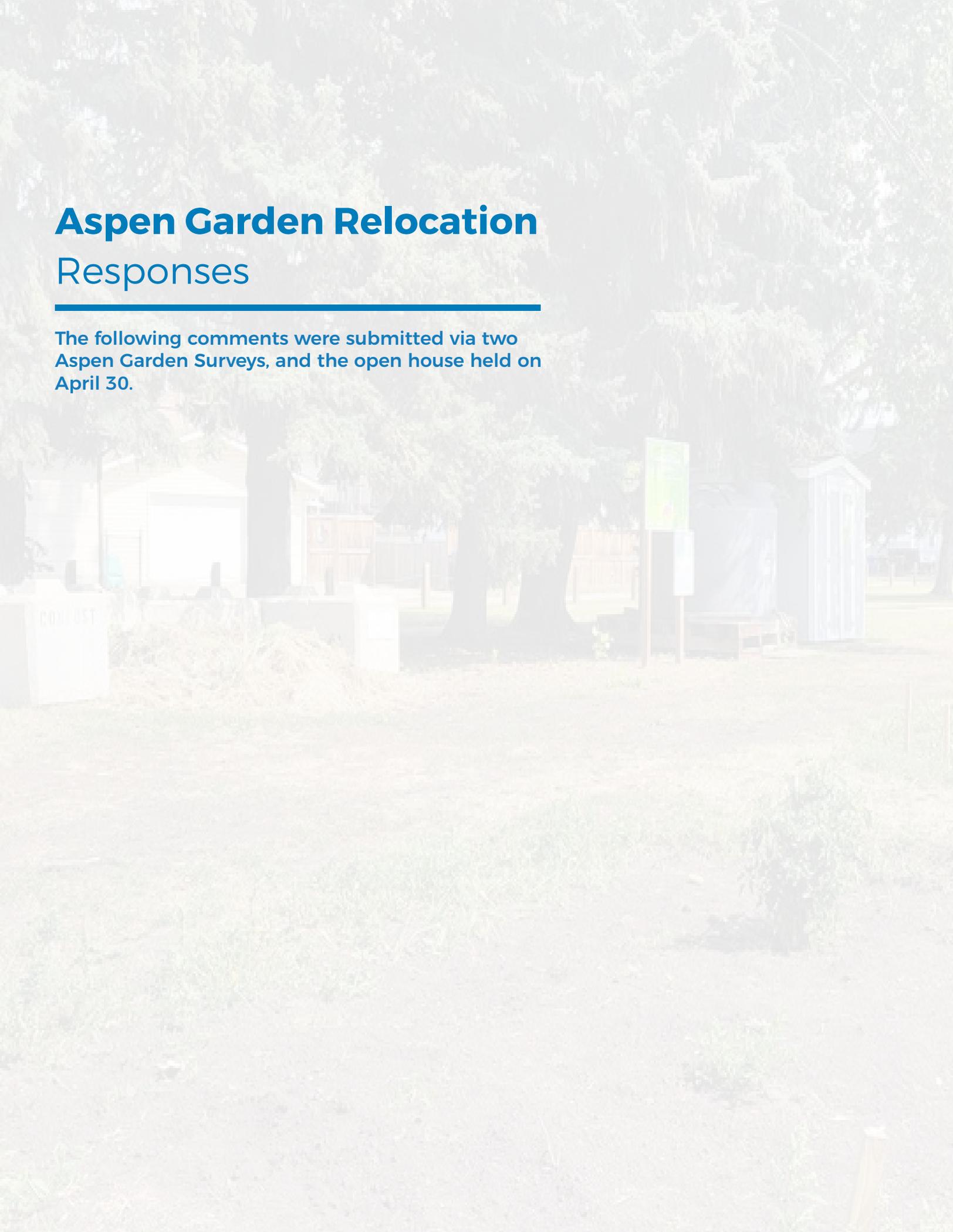
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Recieved:

Town of Blackfalds Staff Signature:

Aspen Garden Relocation Responses

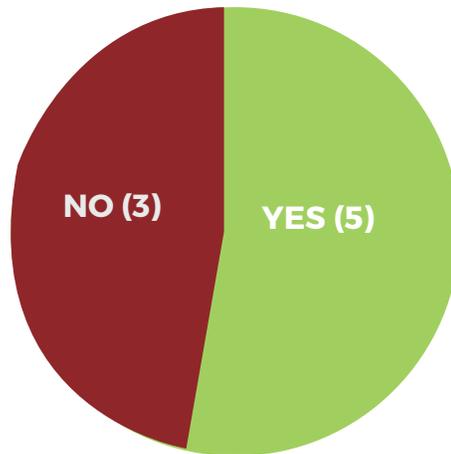
The following comments were submitted via two Aspen Garden Surveys, and the open house held on April 30.



Aspen Community Garden Survey

This survey was sent to current Aspen Community Garden renters to get their feedback.

Question #1 **If we relocate Aspen Community Garden to Willow Park, will you still participate in the community garden program?**



Question #2 **If you selected no, is the location the only reason you won't be participating?**

Comments
Yes. I actually live by Pine Crescent but it was filled up again within the week of opening the bookings. I would rather not travel across town for my garden.
I don't currently use the community gardens since I have my own, but I'm concerned about the seniors and low-income families who rely on the Aspen garden. Relocating it could discourage their participation. For some it may help supplement their food supply during the warmer months as grocery costs continue to rise.
Too far for me to walk to it.

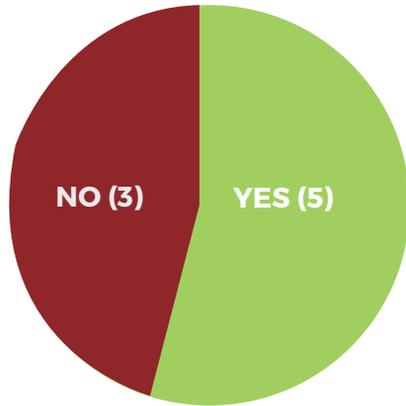
Question #3 **Do you have any other comments about the relocation?**

Comments
It may be hard to predict future demand, but increasing the garden size would be very efficient (low cost) if done at this time.
What is going to happen to the current plots at Aspen? Is there enough demand to keep them open and create a new one at willow park?
Will there be more gardens in the future near pine crescent? Aspen and new location are both a ways for me. Something closer to east side or more plots on the east side would be convenient.
Would love for the garden to be close to a park, parking, and washrooms. Great idea.
Too far away. Will ALWAYS have to use a vehicle. Not convenient for watering.
Willow park has more space and is a more convenient location for me. I would prefer that location

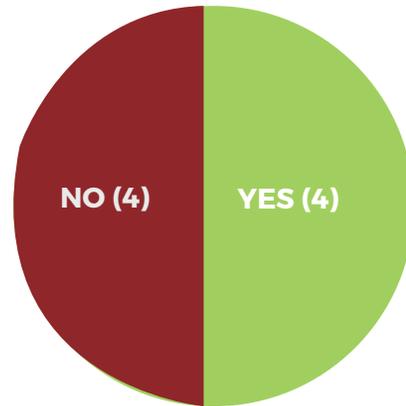
Willow Park Survey

This survey was used as general feedback for surrounding houses, and the Blackfalds community.

Question #1 **Do you have any concerns regarding the possible relocation of Aspen Community Garden to Willow Park?**



Question #3 **If Aspen Community Garden is relocated, would you rent a plot?**



Question #2 **If you answered yes for Question 1, what concerns do you have?**

Comments

I think there would be more value to adding another garden area not just relocating the one already

The whole park layout is not thought out from the beginning. The park is not flat, only area that seems to be flat is where the skating circle would be in winter. No slowpitch diamond. No soccer field. There are trees in the middle that interfere with open spaces. The path dissects the park. The playground could be closer to the road to open until the west side of the park. The rest is just wasted space. I would like to see the trees moved in better spots. Lights along trail would be nice.

There is already increased traffic when the rink was moved to the Willows. The green space is nice to have for kids to play around and families to have gatherings. Just because there is space, doesn't mean it has to be filled. Just sounds like wasted money to move it.

A community plot in willow park is a great idea-there are so many townhouses here with small yards that could use it. But why relocate the other one? Why not have both? We live in Aspen lakes and had rented a plot in the Aspen area before but it was too far to go every day so only did it once. However there were several seniors using it that lived in the area and had beautiful productive plots and I'm concerned they would have the same issue if you move it away from them.

"I live directly across from the proposed Community Garden proposal:
 There are a number of valid reasons why this is not a well thought out proposal.
 1). Residents parking . The residents vie for street parking already. Our homes have only a single car driveways.
 2). Increased danger to children: kids play street hockey here
 3). WIND. I can't even have hanging baskets out front. The wind has broken the lattice off the pergola that was fastened on with multiple screws.

Willow park has more space and is a more convenient location for me. I would prefer that location

To the Mayor and Council of the Town of Blackfalds.

I respectfully submit this letter of objection to the proposed Aspen Garden Relocation and any other future proposals as dangerous and inappropriate.

First, it begs the question as to the reason for the relocation and secondly, the choice of Willow Road. How well researched was this proposed project? what was/is the criteria? Or is it solely because there's an empty spot?

What other areas are being considered for this project?

Has any consideration been given to the wide open spaces on either side of A-1 Storage and UHaul?

Reasons for objection:

1. Residential parking is already now at a serious disadvantage. Last night I came home around 9:15pm: there was absolutely no place for me to park. The houses on Willow Rd have single vehicle driveways and most residents have multiple vehicles because they are dual income families. In any case, the garages are too small to accommodate a normal sized car. There is considerable vying and jockeying for street parking availability already. Personally, I am disabled, having a compression fracture of the spine and a heart condition making it difficult for me to walk.
2. Increased noise pollution. When the Town built the hockey rink on our street, it became bang, bang, bang deep into the night as users flipped their pucks against the arenas walls. Although the noise will not be of the same type and magnitude, there will be additional irritation.
3. Increased danger to children. Kids play street hockey, ride their bikes and roller skate here and local Daycares bring their young charges to cross over to the playground. There is already a steady stream of delivery vehicles and service vehicles. Speeding is already a safety concern.
4. WIND! I cannot stress this enough. I can't even have hanging baskets out front because they get beaten to death by the westerly blasts. The lattice on our pergola was broken off by wind despite being firmly secured to the posts with multiple screws. The crosswalk sign vibrates scarily in strong wind. Nothing planted in the proposed area will survive the wind. Just last week we had a "gust blow". We were pelted with sand and sleet. People will abandon their gardens and leave behind a derelict area. Wind born garbage of every kind is already a problem.
5. A couple of years ago, I asked the Town of Blackfalds to plant three or four mature trees to make a berm from the wind and was summarily shut down. Now suddenly theres thousands of dollars available for this project. Did the Town win the lottery?
6. Security concerns.

Respectfully,

Ardyth Hagerman, resident
21 Willow Road, Blackfalds

Recreation & Culture Board Update – May 7, 2025

- Aquatic rehire intake meetings and interviews commenced Apr 1 and continued until Apr 22. We have 24 returning staff (71%) and 10 new hires. Training and onboarding kicks off May 5.
- A Kick Start 10 Week Challenge participant survey was launched late March to collect feedback. All around very positive comments were given and we are looking at potentially running two in the fall. Kudos to Fitness Programmer Justin Simpao for facilitating this great program.
- Capital Support of Recreation and Cultural Facilities application was submitted Apr 1 to Lacombe County for the fire panel replacement project which was fully verified during our annual inspection completed by Centratch on Apr 14.
- Day Camp Leader interviews have been completed and 4 of 5 leaders are returning from last year.
- Both sessions of the Planetarium that came Apr 7 were full and two Red Hot Science workshops through RDP are set to take place May 31. Both are made possible by an anonymous donor.
- Draft Administrative Policy for Renter Insurance Requirements has been submitted to senior management for review and feedback. The portal has been activated by AB Munis and we continue to work towards a July 1 launch.
- Interested participants in our new initiative 'Growing a Row' for the Blackfalds Food Bank can pick up a sign from Guest Services as of May 3 and donate their harvest from that row in the fall.
- Plans are set for 2 pairs of speed bumps for the Abbey entry road. It was felt that a speed deterrent would help lower the risk for pedestrians and motorists. Additionally, the road on the south side of the Veterans Monument will become eastbound only.
- Three Intro to Pickleball classes are being held the end of Apr and beginning of May. These classes are being hosted by a regular member who was newly NCCP certified and volunteered their time.
- Remalyn Sotelo joins us as a casual Children's Services Attendant I.
- C'amped registration for April has been unpredictable. Some dates are sold out with a waiting list and others we have had to cancel due to low registration.
- Badminton Alberta was here again Apr 11-13, Red Deer Fencing on Apr 25-27 and FH 1 had polling stations on Apr 28 for the Federal Election.
- The Aquatic Programmer and start up crew began Apr 14. It has been identified there are two tears in our Junior Olympic pool basin, these will be repaired by Western Recreation when they are here the week of May 5 to install the new Spray Park manifold.
- CBS Electrical started Apr 30 re-grounding the entire aquatic centre that was found to have eroded considerably in many areas. Without grounding, the aquatic centre is inoperable.
- Leisure Pool is filled and circulating and we have found a considerable leak in the Hot Tub. Contractors will be onsite May 2 to scope the in concrete pipes and help us troubleshoot.
- We received 23 applicants for this years Camp Curious Champion program. Selection is complete and all successful applicants registered. This program has been made possible the last two years by the generosity of an anonymous donor and in partnership with FCSS.
- Our 9 am drop in fitness classes completed on Apr 17 and the Abbey Centre walking club discontinued as of Apr 30 due to lack of interest.
- A new webpage outlining our environmental stewardship through our solar panels is now live.
- Abbey Centre Health & Safety Committee held their monthly meeting Apr 23 and final preparations completed for the Emergency Procedures in-services in early May.
- Staff attended Corepoint training Apr 24, Apr 25 and May 2
- April staff birthdays and work anniversaries were celebrated on Apr 25
- Camp Curious and Swim Lessons opened for early registration on Apr 28 for annual members and May 1 for the general public.
- GM and CSP attended Blackfalds Days planning meeting Apr 29.
- We have received the replacement backboard for our portable basketball net that shattered awhile ago and also the replacement vinyl curtains for the field house. Both have yet to be installed.
- Trane technician was on-site Apr 30 to install our new network controller and secure remote access for the building management system. Now that this step is complete, they will be able to remote in and build our graphic interface.

Parks & Facilities Report
May 7, 2025

Aspen Community Garden Relocation Open House, Wednesday, April 30

Four staff attended the annual Recreation Facilities Personnel Conference

Four staff attended Incident Command System (ICS) 100 training hosted at the Lacombe County office.

ICS-100 is an introductory course on the Incident Command System (ICS), a standard for managing emergencies and disasters. It provides a foundation for higher-level ICS learning and is applicable to anyone involved in emergency response or planning. The course covers the history, principles, and organizational structure of ICS.

All staff attended training in Core Point (Comprehensive Workplace Health & Safety Software)

Community Services Managers monthly meeting on March 18.

Arborist job posting has closed. Currently reviewing applications.

Summer staff start on Monday, May 5.

Staffing changes in Community Services as we changed the reporting structure for staff under the supervision of the Parks and Facilities Manager and Sports and Events Manager.