

# **Community & economic benefits**



# Why this works for Golden

## Strategic alignment

This proposal creates opportunities and meets the requirements of the key strategic plans for Golden.

- Town of Golden Official Community Plan
- Vital pulse Golden & District Community Foundation
- Town of Golden Council Strategic Priorities 2019-2022
- Tourism Golden Strategic Plan 2017-2021
- Resort Development Strategy 2022-2024
- Destination BC Highway 1 Situation Analysis 2018
- Destination BC Highway 1 Destination Development Strategy
- Regional Trail Strategy for Golden and Electoral Area A

## Community & tourism

A public garden space in the Town of Golden would benefit both the community and tourists alike. It could become:

- A meeting place for people of all ages and diverse backgrounds.
- A beautification focal point for the town.
- A hub for local groups and organizations to showcase, volunteer, and benefit.
- A core eco-tourism feature.





# Tourism sentiment



## Underserved category

Sentiment driven by Golden’s tourism products and experiences perform below the median of the comparative set.

Golden’s sentiment score was 26/100 in the relaxation and wellness category.

A dedicated outdoor wellness experience could enhance and increase sentiment amongst visitors.

## Economic development

The revitalization and beautification of downtown Golden is a pivotal step in improving tourism sentiment and attracting larger numbers of visitors to the town each season.

### How does your destination stack up?

Sentiment Comparison



Tourism sentiment is an indicator of the overall attitudes toward Golden's tourism offering. This comparison is your destination's performance vs. the range of your destination's Comparative set.

Tourism Sectors	Sentiment	
	Golden	Comparative Performance
Outdoor Activities	52	Average
Destination Services	39	Low
Relaxation + Wellness	26	Low
Amenities + Entertainment	25	Low
Food + Culinary	27	Low
Culture + History	38	Average



# Vital Pulse

## Meeting the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals: Golden and Area A

The creation of a community wellness garden within the town of Golden would meet the following goals:

- **Sustainable Community** Make community inclusive, resilient and sustainable
- **Good Health and Wellbeing** Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages
- **Life on Land** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, and halt land degradation and biodiversity loss



GOLDEN &  
DISTRICT  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION





# Community Planning



## Town of Golden Council Vision

“Golden provides the opportunity for all to live in a healthy, vibrant community.”

## Official Community Planning

Town of Golden OCP questionnaire received more than 150 responses and a public forum was held. The results revealed the community of Golden would like to see progress in the following areas:

- **Downtown revitalization;**
- **Enhanced recreation facilities**

The addition of a community garden to the town helps fulfill the criteria of all three core strategies; the social, economic, and environmental strategies for the Town of Golden.

The revitalization of brownfields also lends itself in support of the garden concept.

## Economic vitality, community spirit & sense of place.

Designed outdoor spaces and gardens can be central to a locale’s economic vitality, community spirit and sense of place.

Towards this end, we develop open and accessible community parks that facilitate the connection and valorization of the environment; parks where, furthermore, people can enjoy the benefits of what the environment gives us. One of those benefits is nature’s power to heal—mentally and physically—something that more and more scientific studies confirm.

## Local Policy

- Council’s Strategic Priorities (2019-2022)
- Resort Development Strategy (2019-2022)
- Age Friendly Community Plan (2014)
- Zoning Bylaw (2011)
- Official Community Plan (2022)
- Vital Pulse Survey (2023)



# Community Planning



## Relevant policies relating to recreational/education/cultural

- Provide a comprehensive parks and open space system that meets the requirements of present and future generations and preserves the natural environment.
- The lands presently dedicated for Hwy 95 bypass use will be dedicated to community use south of the Kicking Horse River. North of the Kicking Horse River, the bypass lands will be developed compatibly in conjunction with adjoining lands and contain mixed-uses.
- Reflection Lake pit (now urban reserve) to be dedicated for preservation and park use.
- Parks, open space and facilities for recreation and culture shall be provided to serve all residents of the community.
- The Town shall endeavour to establish new neighbourhood and community parks on the basis of future development and increases in population.
- When applications for subdivision are circulated for comment, the Leisure Services Department shall be consulted in regards to satisfying parks and open space requirements.
- The Town will continue to work cooperatively with agencies to monitor the effectiveness of social programs and community health.

## Land use & growth management policy

Implement community garden for sense of place and as food security in multi-family developments and redevelopments as well as other areas. Identify locations for a community garden and secure Town support for it.

Create a variety of parks, recreation and trail opportunities available for disabled access, including neighbourhood playgrounds, playing fields, indoor recreation and cultural facilities, historic sites, scenic walkways and ornamental areas.

## Promoting health & well-being

Strong and growing evidence indicates that socioeconomic factors, such as living and working conditions are crucially important for a healthy population. The goal: To promote physical, mental and social well-being as determined through socioeconomic, environmental and biological factors.



# Resort Municipality



## Official Community Planning

The Province of British Columbia, through the Resort Municipality Revenue Sharing Program, has committed to providing qualified resort-based municipalities with new resources to assist in the financing of new or improved resort amenities and services in their community in order to encourage private investment, attract visitors and contribute to the overall development of the economy of resort-based communities. Golden has met the qualifications of a resort municipality under this program. Both resort and independent based tourism now play pivotal roles in the economic environment of Golden.

Notwithstanding the significant positive impacts offered by an economy now well-grounded in the resort tourism sector, the Town is incurring great challenges in providing the adequate and demanded infrastructure associated with this status. The Town and surrounding areas badly require additional tourism-related infrastructure to be able to meet the needs of the expected tourists.

## Resort Development Strategy

A resort development strategy has been developed by the Town and approved by the Province, outlining 6 programs worth more than \$2.25 million over 5 years to include **improving the aesthetics of the area and Increasing and improving green spaces and pathways.**

### RDS Goals:

1. Enhance cultural vibrancy and identity.
2. Enhance key existing tourism product infrastructure.
3. Diversify municipal tax revenue.
4. Increase visitation.
5. Increase length of stay.
6. Enhance environmental sustainability and climate adaptation.
7. Increase Indigenous tourism opportunities in collaboration with the Ktunaxa, Secwepemc, and Metis Nations.

The RDS aligns with the Strategic Framework for Tourism in British Columbia



# Small town success



Following in the footsteps of many other small mountain towns, Golden could prosper from a public garden space that offers opportunities for relaxation as ecotourism only continues to rise, and visitors are seeking out well rounded vacation experiences.

It's recommended to leverage a funding, maintenance, and winter management model already utilized successfully by other towns.

## Cascade Gardens - Banff



## Heiwa Teien Peace Garden - New Denver



## Lheidli T'enneh Memorial park, Prince George



## Millenium Park - Creston





# Kimberley - Leading by example

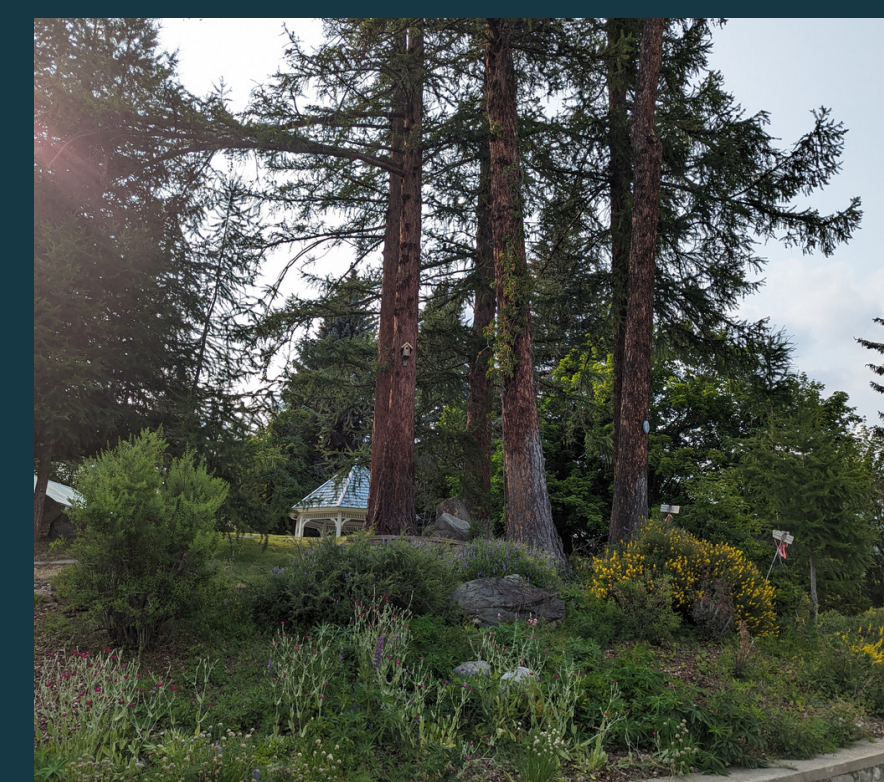


**Kimberley was named B.C.'s Best Small Town in 2022.** Their downtown landscaping and natural features played a large part in winning them the title. The Golden Garden concept could benefit from utilizing something similar to the rock and water feature designs seen in downtown Kimberley.



## Cominco Gardens - Kimberley

Established in 1927, Cominco Gardens is a 5-hectare property that boasts over 45,000 flowers annually. They are maintained by the city of Kimberley, and are a beloved part of any visitor's itinerary. The gardens bloom from spring to fall. The Cominco Gardens can be visited 7 days a week, and are wheelchair and stroller accessible.





**Healthy, active  
community**



# Healthy, active community



## What is a healthy community?

A healthy community is defined as “a place where healthy built, social, economic, and natural environments give citizens the opportunity to live to their full potential,” regardless of their socially, culturally, or economically defined circumstances.

A healthy community allows “people to come together to make their community better for themselves, their family, their friends, their neighbours, and others. A healthy community creates ongoing dialogue, generates leadership opportunities for all, embraces diversity, connects people and resources, fosters a sense of community, and shapes its own future.”

We have an opportunity to develop accessible community spaces that facilitate connection with, and advocacy for the environment. Spaces where people can enjoy the benefits of being in nature, within community.

Investing in active transportation has been shown to create more physically active communities, which can in turn improve psychological well-being and reduce the risk of numerous chronic diseases. With Golden’s growing senior population, active transportation infrastructure will support ageing in place.

## Key determinant of an active life

The relationship between how our communities are designed and the health status of Canadians is ever more important, as social and environmental stressors contribute to growing physical and mental health problems in Canada.

It is primarily the physical and socio-economic environments in which we live, learn, work and play that determine if, and how often, we are physically active. Built and natural environments can provide spaces to connect in nature and to be active within our day to day.

**Anecdotal example:** A single person that lives alone on 10th St South, drives to work near the hospital, rather than walking. Their walking route would not offer any visually or sensorily appealing experiences. If this person’s commute included a walk through a beautifully designed garden space where they could engage their senses, see other local people enjoying the space, stop for a few moments to photograph the new flowers in bloom, then continue on their way, we could hypothesise that they would choose to walk in order to experience the garden, and thus, the mental and physical well-being of that individual would be greatly improved.



# Accessibility & Age-friendly



## Official Community Planning

Having programs, services, and environments that enable everyone to participate fully in society without barriers is a requirement of the Accessible British Columbia Act. Golden is working towards meeting this criteria.

An accessible and inclusive community wellness garden would be an asset to the town and meeting the goals laid out by the committee.

## Accessibility & active transportation

In situating the wellness garden within walking or rolling distance of the town centre, the need for parking spaces to be created is lessened. Leaning into the Golden Active Transportation Network Plan will help to create a cohesive vision for achieving the goals for the foot and non motorized traffic of Golden.

Ensure all new concepts, plans, and developments integrate with the Golden Active Transportation Network Plan.

## Age Friendly Community Plan (2014)

The Town's Age Friendly Community Plan (AFCP) provides guidance on creating a community where older people can live active, socially engaged lives through policies, services and structures designed to support them. Age friendly communities do all of the following:

- **Recognize the wide range of capacities and resources among older people**
- **Anticipate and respond flexibly to aging-related needs and preferences**
- **Respect decisions and lifestyle choices**
- **Protect those who are most vulnerable**
- **Promote inclusion and contribution in all areas of community life**

Gaps and opportunities are detailed for each Dimension with concluding recommendations and priorities. There are several priorities that relate directly to the Transportation Plan:

- **Prioritize improving sidewalk condition and availability • Prioritize sidewalk snow and ice clearing**
- **Explore the potential for reintroducing a local transit service to the Town**
- **Support age-friendly active transportation facilities**

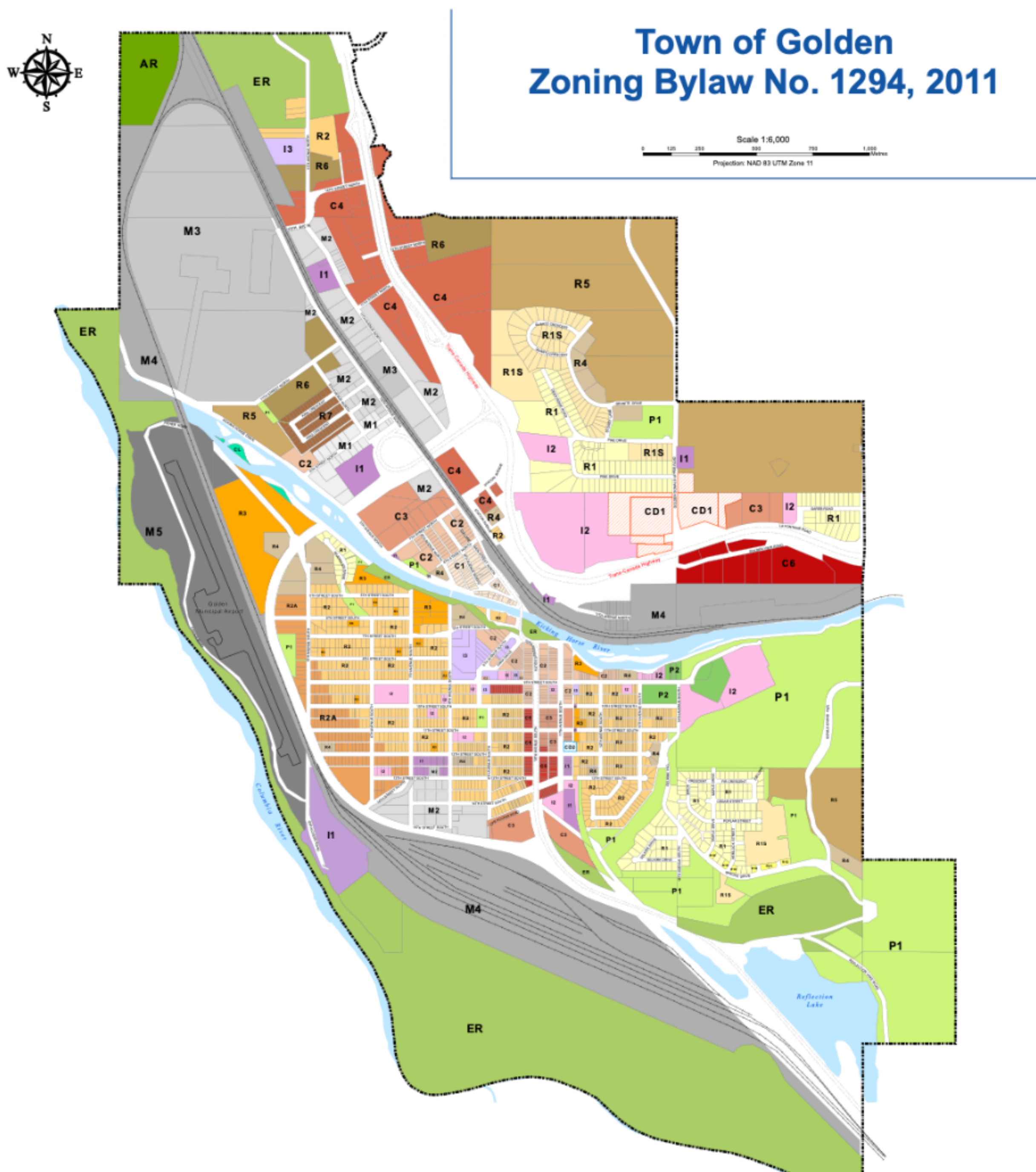
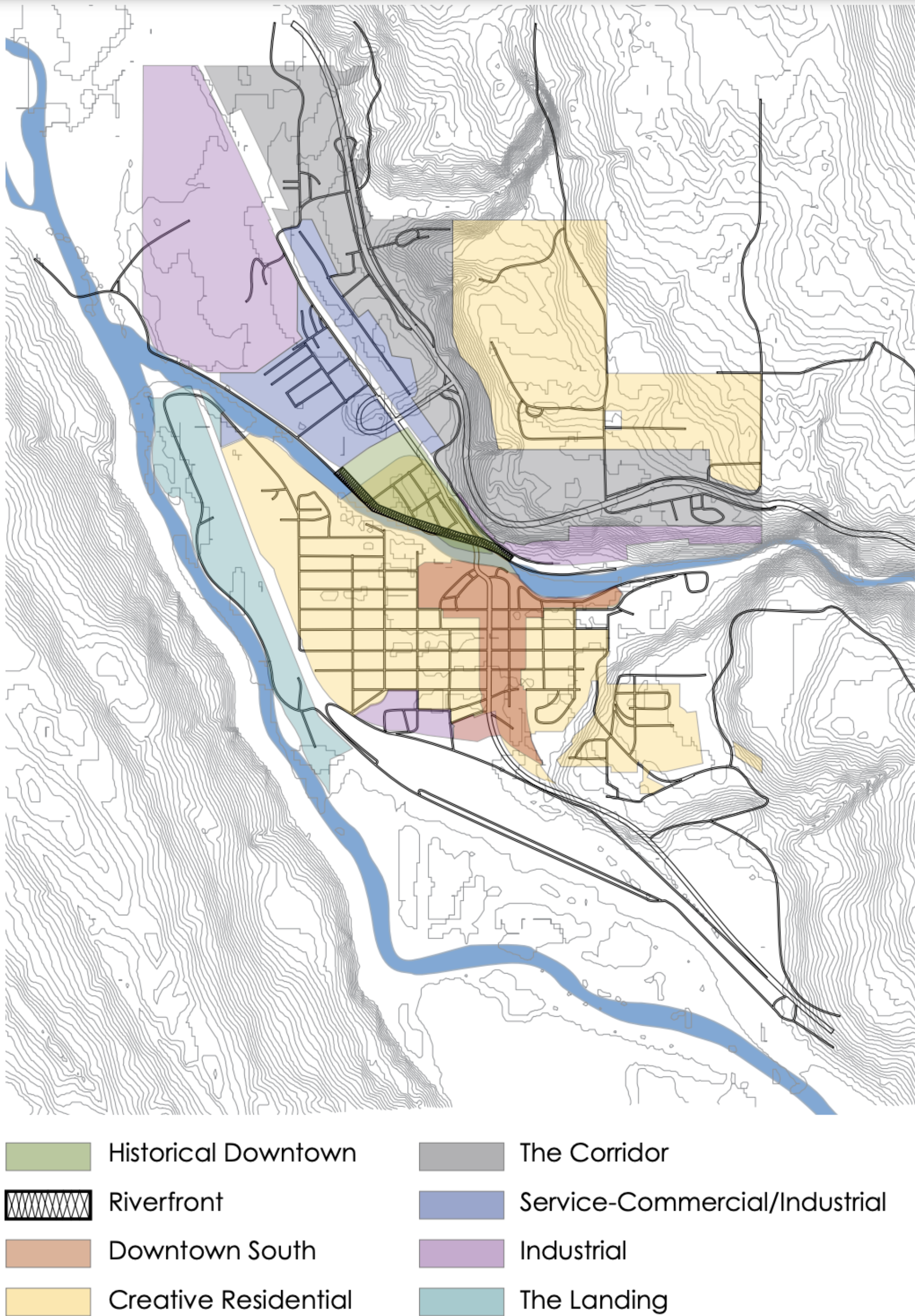


**Location**

**Location**



# Location: Town of Golden





# Zoning Bylaw No. 1294, 2011

Scale 1:6,000  
Projection: NAD 83 UTM Zone 11



## Zoning Categories

### RESIDENTIAL

- R1 Single Detached Residential
- R1D Flexible Residential
- R1S Single Detached with Secondary Residential
- R2 Twin Residential
- R2A Twin Residential Sensitive
- R3 Multi Flex Residential
- R4 High Density Residential
- R5 Residential Reserve
- R6 Mobile Home Park
- R7 Mobile Home Park Subdivision

### COMMUNITY

- I1 Community Utilities and Services
- I2 Community Education and Culture
- I3 Community Care and Resource

### PARKS, RECREATION, ENVIRONMENT

- P1 Parks and Trails
- P2 Recreation and Facilities
- ER Environmental Reserve

### COMMERCIAL

- C1 Historic Downtown Commercial
- C2 Mixed Use Commercial
- C3 General Commercial
- C4 Highway Corridor Commercial
- C5 Transition Commercial
- C6 Resort Commercial

### INDUSTRIAL

- M1 Commercial Industrial
- M2 Light Industrial
- M3 Heavy Industrial
- M4 Railway Industrial
- M5 Airport Industrial

### OTHER

- CD1 Gateway Comprehensive Development
- CD2 Golden Key Comprehensive Development
- CL Crown Land
- AR Agriculture
- Highway
- Railroad
- Town of Golden Boundary

## Zoning Categories

### RESIDENTIAL

- R1 Single Detached Residential
- R1D Flexible Residential

### COMMUNITY

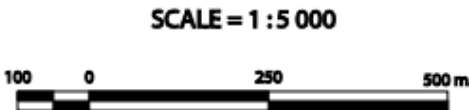
- I1 Community Utilities and Services
- I2 Community Education and Culture
- I3 Community Care and Resource

### INDUSTRIAL


- M1 Commercial Industrial
- M2 Light Industrial
- M3 Heavy Industrial
- M4 Railway Industrial











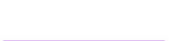




# Parks Trails & Transportation Schedule



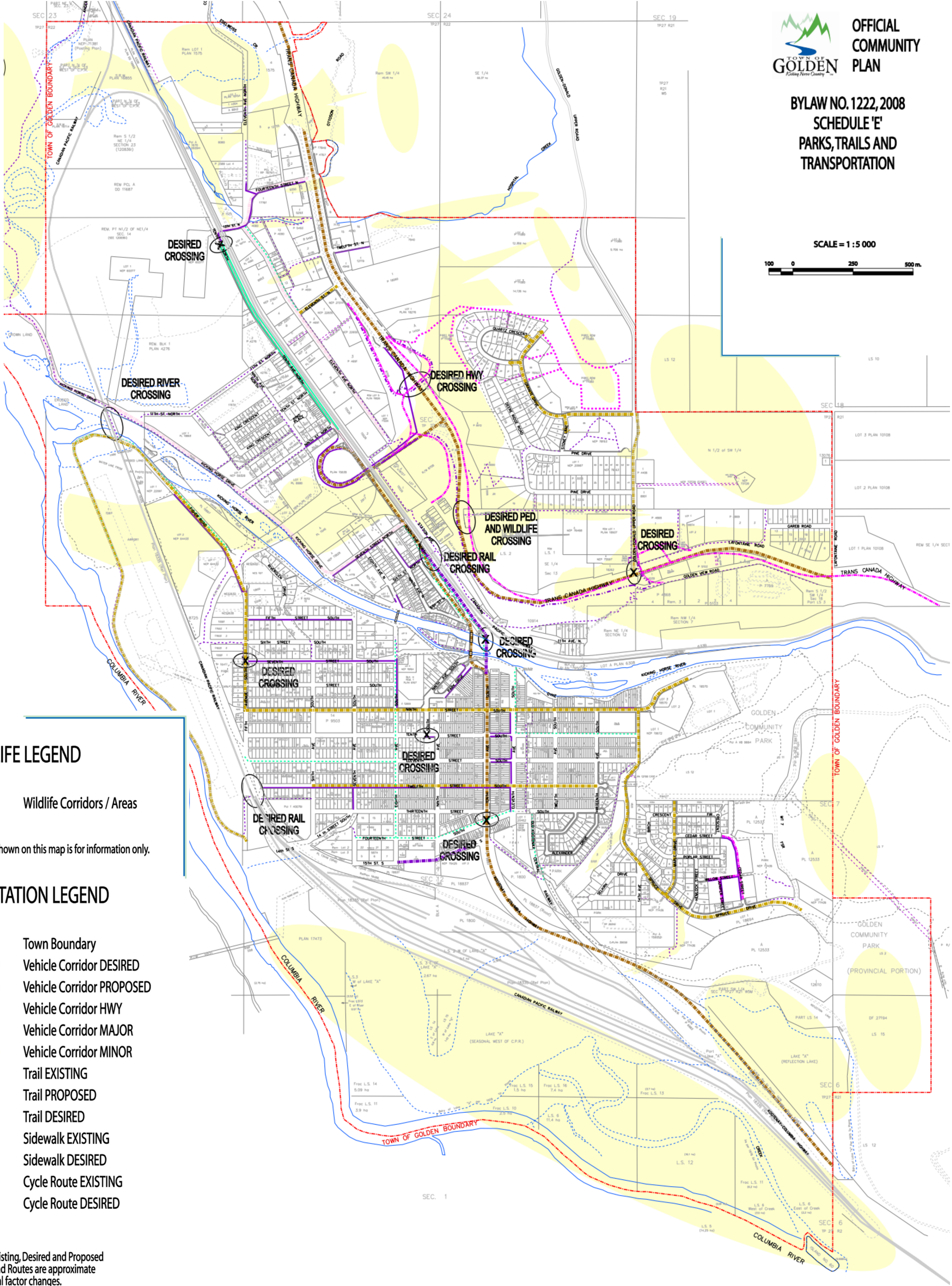
## WILDLIFE LEGEND

-  Wildlife Corridors / Areas
- NOTE:  
The Wildlife Areas shown on this map is for information only.

## TRANSPORTATION LEGEND

-  Town Boundary
-  Vehicle Corridor DESIRED
-  Vehicle Corridor PROPOSED
-  Vehicle Corridor HWY
-  Vehicle Corridor MAJOR
-  Vehicle Corridor MINOR
-  Trail EXISTING
-  Trail PROPOSED
-  Trail DESIRED
-  Sidewalk EXISTING
-  Sidewalk DESIRED
-  Cycle Route EXISTING
-  Cycle Route DESIRED

NOTE:  
The Location of Existing, Desired and Proposed  
Trails, Sidewalks and Routes are approximate  
and subject to local factor changes.

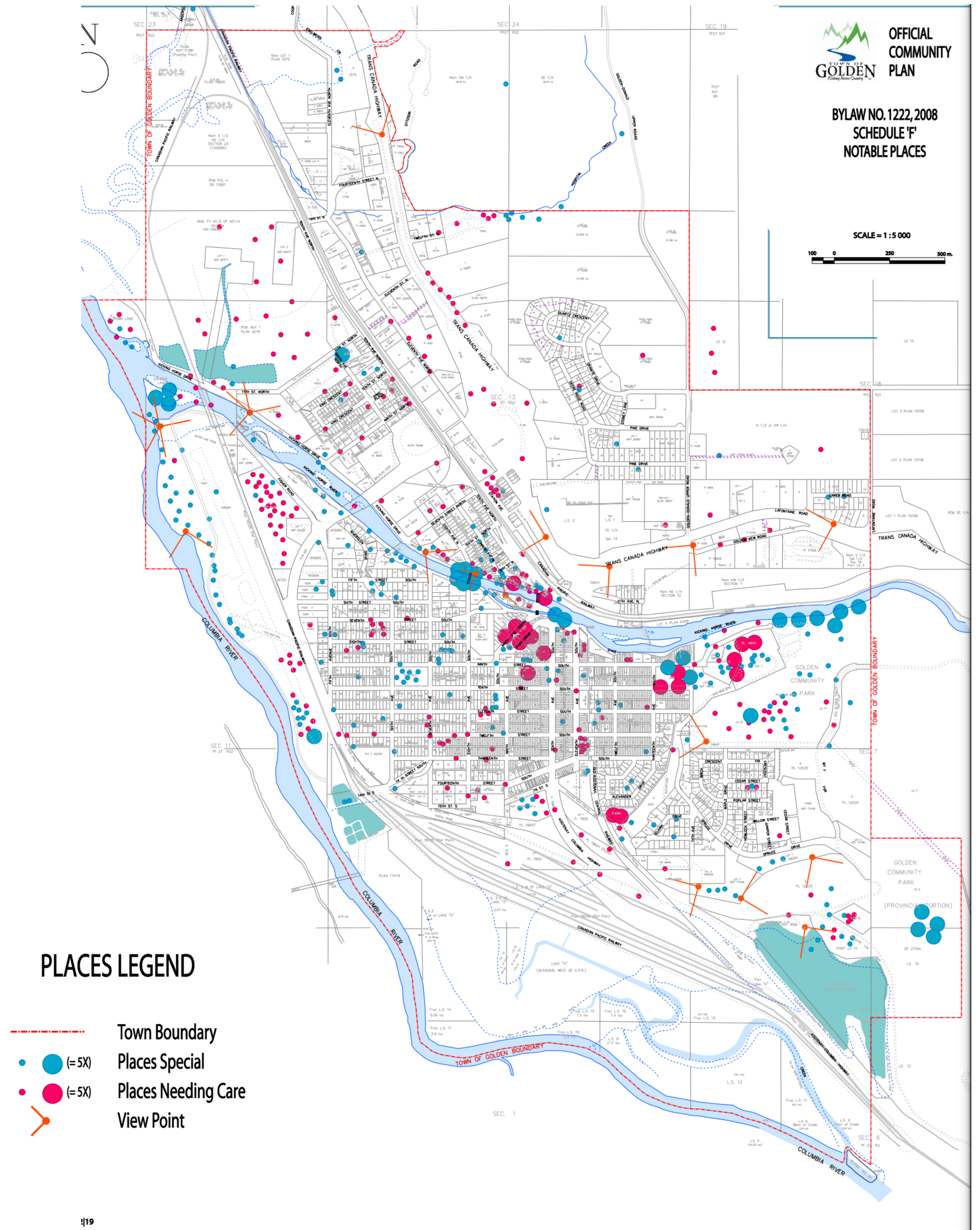




# Areas of interest

## Sites within town boundaries:

- Special places
- Places needing care





# Town of Golden Parks

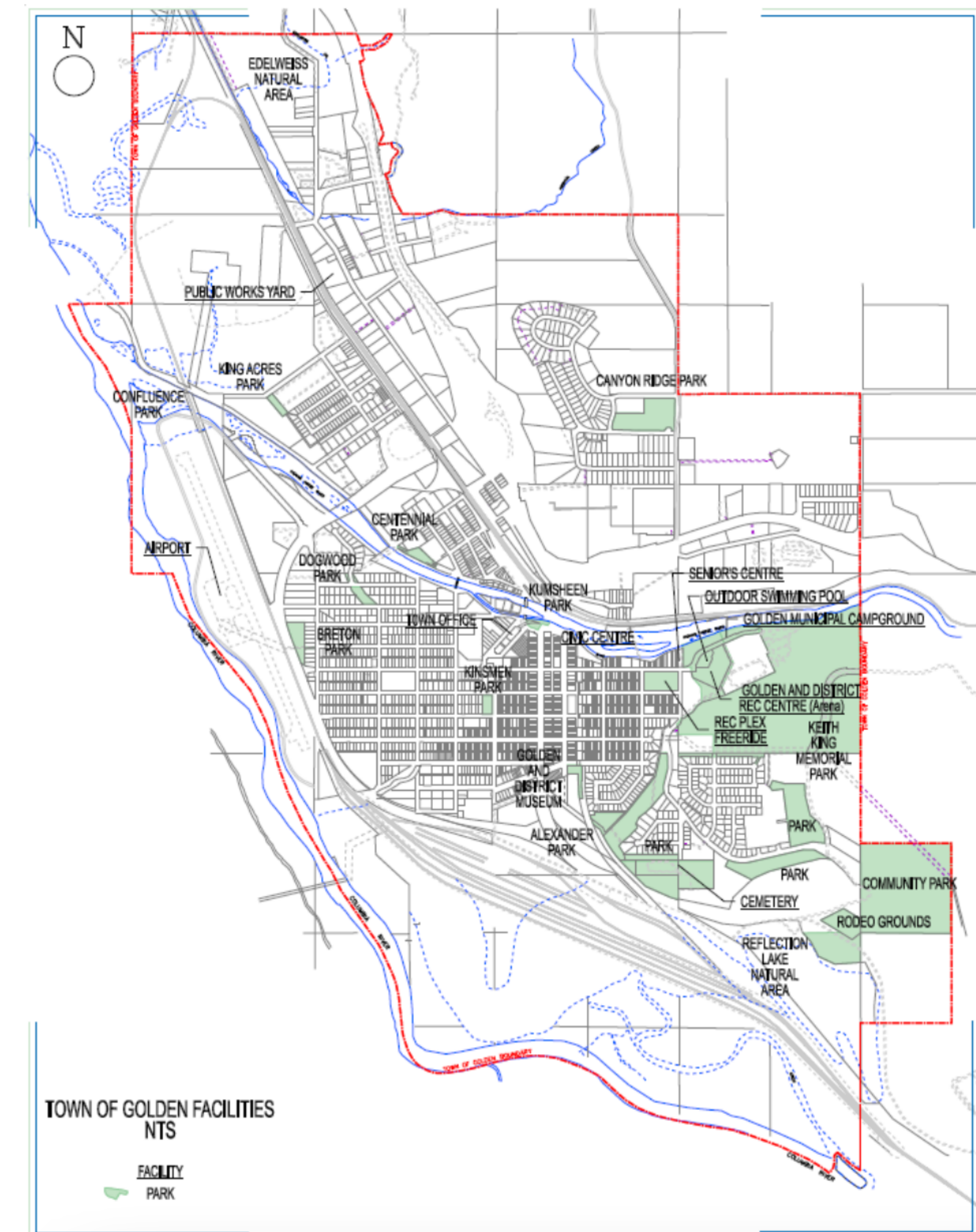
## Existing parks, trails & open spaces

Dogwood Park  
Kinsmen Park  
Confluence Park  
Kumsheen Park  
Alexander Park  
Keith King Memorial Park  
The Freeride Park  
The Sports Courts  
Reflection Lake Natural Area  
Canyon Ridge Park is located near Pine Drive  
Rotary Trail system  
Edelweiss Natural Area  
King Acres Park  
Breton Park  
Horseshoe pits

The addition of a public garden space meets a currently underserved need in the community.

There is the potential to pursue the possibility of integrating the garden concept into an existing park or open space.

FIGURE 3: TOWN OF GOLDEN PARKS AND FACILITIES





# Location Scouting



## Locations identified for consideration of revised concept

- I1 A/B- Parallel 11th Avenue South
- P1 - A - Alexander Park
- I1 - C - 9th St North

Further viable locations may be available for consideration. Due to time restraints and budget, exploration of additional sites was limited.

## Locations identified for consideration of initial trail concept

- Edelweiss Slough
- Visitor centre area
- North Trail - Kicking Horse Bridge
- Frenchman's Ridge
- Burgess Gadsen Provincial Park

Each of these locations was deemed unsuitable as they did not meet enough of the criteria for the initial concept design.

The location scouting for a suitable forest wellness trail was conducted outside of the Town of Golden in an attempt to meet original criteria, however, removing much of the accessibility and meeting of strategic goals.