



Village of Montrose 2015-2018 Strategic Plan on a Page

Guided by the community vision and goals for the future, Village of Montrose Council and staff worked together to articulate strategic priorities and key actions to guide and focus our efforts and resources over the next four years. We will use this plan for decision-making, refer to it to assess progress, and revisit it annually – adjusting it as necessary to ensure it continues to be relevant, realistic, and responsive to changes in the community and the external landscape.

Where we're going

Vision We will work together to maintain a high quality of life and excellent service to our community.
Mission We will, through strong leadership, provide high quality of life and service for current and future generations through collaboration with our neighbours in a fiscally responsible manner.
Goals See next page for goal statements describing where we're going in more detail.

How we're going to move forward

The Strategic Priorities and Actions below were developed and agreed to by Village of Montrose Council and Administration as a way to guide and focus efforts and resources over the next four years. They will be pursued as resources permit and as opportunities arise. They may also be adjusted as new information becomes available.

| | Economy | Infrastructure | Neighbourhoods and Housing | Land Use and Natural Areas | Community and Individual Health | Leisure, Learning and Recreation | Governance and Corporate Capacity |
|-----------------|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| Higher Priority | | Plan and secure funding for future infrastructure maintenance and upgrades, focusing on: - WWTP upgrades - Water distribution system upgrades and replacement needs - Continue to work toward developing an asset management plan | Improve street safety and walkability. - Complete a street light audit (including crosswalks) to identify priority areas for improved safety and energy savings. | | Motivate and encourage community members to participate in community and regional decision-making processes and improve two-way communications - Host events that engage residents in community discussions and decisions - Explore online opportunities to engage and communicate with residents | Enhance access to recreation opportunities. - Explore funding and location for outdoor exercise equipment - Explore potential for the lower walking trail - Pursue and support a recreation agreement for the region - Upgrade skate park structures | Explore ways to generate additional revenue or save money in order to fund community priorities. - Review the waste collection system for potential cost saving opportunities, including exploration of taxation and garbage tag solutions. |
| Medium Priority | Attract new and support existing businesses and entrepreneurs. - Explore ways to encourage home-based businesses - Explore the creation of a low-maintenance local business/service provider directory or 'sharing forum' to improve access to local services, both formal and informal | | | Enable residential, commercial and recreational development opportunities, prioritizing infill over greenfield development. - Inventory and map available land for development - Provide easy-to-follow development process information for developers and homeowners to facilitate development | Create and encourage the development of gathering places for residents - Initiate the creation and ongoing operation of a community garden | | Continue to participate in regional collaborative initiatives (e.g., public transportation, waste diversion, recreation, KBRH, etc.). Explore ways to increase the volunteer pool. |
| Lower Priority | | | Take advantage of opportunities as they arise to create affordable seniors housing in the community. - Conduct a seniors housing needs assessment Be open to ways to support residents to upgrade their homes/properties in order to support local housing stock improvements that will help to attract new residents. | Support a local culture of environmental stewardship and conservation. - Support local groups in hosting events | Be open to new ways of attracting and retaining young people and families. | Grow the presence of art, culture and heritage in the community. - Display art work in Village Office and facilities | |

Where we are now

Strengths: Empty lots for infill development; affordable place to live with low taxes and affordable housing.
Weaknesses: Limited local amenities such as convenience retail and recreation/leisure amenities (rec offerings are good in neighbouring communities); aging infrastructure in need of replacement, especially the water and sewer lines; housing is affordable but much of it is small and old, making it harder to attract young families; lack of a community gathering place; resource constraints from our small population/limited tax base.
Opportunities: Increased Columbia Basin Trust funding;
Threats: Trail boundary expansion poses a potential threat to Beaver Valley recreation revenues; collaboration challenges on regional issues and opportunities; decreasing or uncertain provincial and federal funding.

Where we're going (more detail)

Vision: We will work together to maintain a high quality of life and excellent service to our community.
Mission: We will, through strong leadership, provide high quality of life and service for current and future generations through collaboration with our neighbours in a fiscally responsible manner.

| Imagine Montrose Goals | | | | | | Corporate Goals |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| Economy | Infrastructure | Neighbourhoods and Housing | Land Use and Natural Areas | Community and Individual Health | Leisure, Learning and Recreation | Governance and Capacity Developed from the Values + Operating Philosophy |
| <p>Goals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> There is a diversity of small businesses in Montrose that contribute to the regional economy and to the local community, and entrepreneurs and small businesses are supported. Montrose residents, businesses and other organizations support and benefit from the strong and diverse regional economy. The population has grown such that it provides the tax base required for the community while maintaining the small-town character enjoyed for so long by residents. Economic activities use land and resources efficiently, and they are transitioning to the use of renewable energy and sustainable materials. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure systems meet the community's needs safely and reliably; they provide affordable services to residents without undermining the current and future financial viability of the systems. Infrastructure systems are managed to avoid negative impacts on the natural environment, and natural resources are used efficiently and conservatively. Montrose is moving toward zero waste through greater education regarding responsible purchasing choices and cost-effective waste diversion services that are convenient and affordable for residents and that keep the community free of garbage. Safe transportation options, trails and reliable roads connect our community and link us to our neighbours, doing so in a way that supports local economic activity and the health of residents and the environment through the transition to more fuel-efficient and non-motorized modes. Water is conserved and the water system provides high quality, safe and affordable drinking water to residents; wastewater and biosolids are managed to protect the natural environment. A reliable, affordable energy supply exists, and our community is increasingly energy efficient and transitioning to more local renewable sources of energy that contribute to local economic activity and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Communication systems are up-to-standard, affordable and reliable. Systems and procedures are in place for emergencies, effectively managing risks to people and property from natural and other disasters. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Our communities and neighbourhoods are peaceful, quiet, safe and walkable; they provide indoor and outdoor places that are accessible and allow residents and visitors to gather, connect and find solitude. Our neighbourhoods, homes and buildings are tidy, visually appealing, and reflective of the small-town character; residents contribute to these characteristics by taking care of private and public places. Neighbourhoods are linked to community amenities by convenient trails, and they include green spaces and a community garden for people of all ages to enjoy outdoor activities. There is a diversity of housing types and densities, including affordable and age-friendly options for a range of ages, abilities and incomes. Homes and buildings are healthy, safe, increasingly energy-efficient and transitioning to the use of renewable energy and sustainable materials. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> An abundance of natural areas, parks and scenic viewscapes are protected, and have been enhanced and restored where necessary. Parks, natural areas and trails can be conveniently accessed from Montrose neighbourhoods and are well used and enjoyed by the region. Development has been located to: avoid continuous encroachment into natural areas; avoid hazardous and ecologically sensitive areas; minimize energy use and greenhouse gas emissions; and use infrastructure systems efficiently. An appropriate mix of land uses and development types in designated areas provides vibrancy and more convenient access to amenities. Commercial, industrial and institutional areas support local economic development, yet are appropriately located and buffered to maintain the small town character and to avoid negative impacts on surrounding areas. Community members are stewards of the natural environment and resources, understanding their connection to the current and long-term health of the community and economy. There is an adequate supply of residential land that enables existing and new community members to reside in the area. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Montrose is family-friendly and safe; it has attracted more families and young people, enhancing community vibrancy and economic viability. There is respect, caring, understanding, interaction and connection amongst people of all ages; and community members are able to grow, mature and age in place safely and comfortably. Community members are enabled to live healthy lifestyles and they take responsibility for their health and wellbeing. Regional health and social services, including the regional hospital, are easily accessed timely and convenient transportation options. Community events, gathering spaces and a diversity of activities keep residents of all ages connected to each other and engaged in community life. Residents are meaningfully informed about and involved in community decision-making; they take responsibility for and actively participate in community life. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A range of recreation and leisure activities are available throughout the year for varying ages and abilities, and the offerings for children and young people have helped to attract families to town. Good quality facilities and amenities exist, are well maintained and supported, and they are delivered within the financial means of the community. Life-long learning opportunities are accessible locally or by convenient and affordable transportation and communications systems. Regional schools are easily accessible by convenient and safe transportation options. A diversity of accessible arts, culture and heritage offerings are locally available, which enhances community vibrancy. | <p>Governance</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Respect: We embrace diversity and treat everyone with courtesy, dignity and fairness; and we show appreciation for volunteers and community leaders. Integrity: We deal with others honestly, openly, directly - earning trust by doing what we say. Accountability: We accept responsibility for our decisions, actions, and overall performance. Collaboration: We work together and communicate, internally and externally, to achieve common goals. Service: We take pride in adoption of best practices and improving quality service with the resources available Leadership: The Village provides leadership toward the community's goals that is visionary, strategic, progressive, transparent, and focused on the public good. Engagement: The Village meaningfully engages stakeholder in decisions that affect them, while ensuring that decisions are made effectively and in a timely manner. <p>Corporate Capacity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Staff and Council are skilled, motivated and supported to deliver excellent service to the community that is innovative, accommodating, continually improving. Municipal finances are well managed to achieve community goals and deliver municipal services. The costs of operating and maintaining Montrose amenities and infrastructure are planned for and shared equitably within the community, with assistance from other levels of government. The Village develops and maintains strong partnerships and strategic alliances with local, regional and provincial partners to identify shared spending priorities, share resources and costs, and leverage funds and financing opportunities. |