

Measuring up to Accessibility



The spectacular mountain scenery of the Tatlayoko Valley offers recreational opportunities for the adventurous, ranging from hiking, kayaking and mountaineering to photography and wildlife viewing. The area is sometimes difficult to access, and for the mobility restricted - almost impossible.

But now, residents of the Chilcotin want everyone to go out and enjoy the Tatlayoko Community Park. And they mean everyone. Thanks to a grant from 2010 Legacies Now, the community park will soon be wheelchair friendly.

The Cariboo Regional District is partnering with the Tatlayoko Community Association to develop a "first-of-its-kind in the Cariboo" access for all project.

The Tatlayoko Community Association, a registered non-profit society, owns the recreational property which was formerly an old mill site. The association has turned the site into a gathering spot for residents and tourists. It consists of a baseball diamond, picnic area, concession area, band stand and a recently acquired heritage house, which will soon be turned into the community hall.

The area is all gravel and has very limited access to people with disabilities. With the recent announcement of the Measuring Up program, and its associated funding program, the Cariboo Regional District was

successful in securing monies that will enable the area between the concession stand, baseball diamond, picnic area and hall to be decked in, allowing access to all points for people with disabilities. Further, two kilometres of wheelchair friendly trails will be developed from the decking, along the beach and into a portion of the stands of trees. The community hall must also be revamped to be wheelchair accessible, by widening hallways, installing a ramp and handicapped bathrooms.

This project is the pilot project for a large project of a 210 km wheelchair accessible trail through the Cariboo Chilcotin. This demonstration project will prove the planning, technology, engineering materials, maintenance and market interest in the concept.

