

Open Space and Environmental Protection

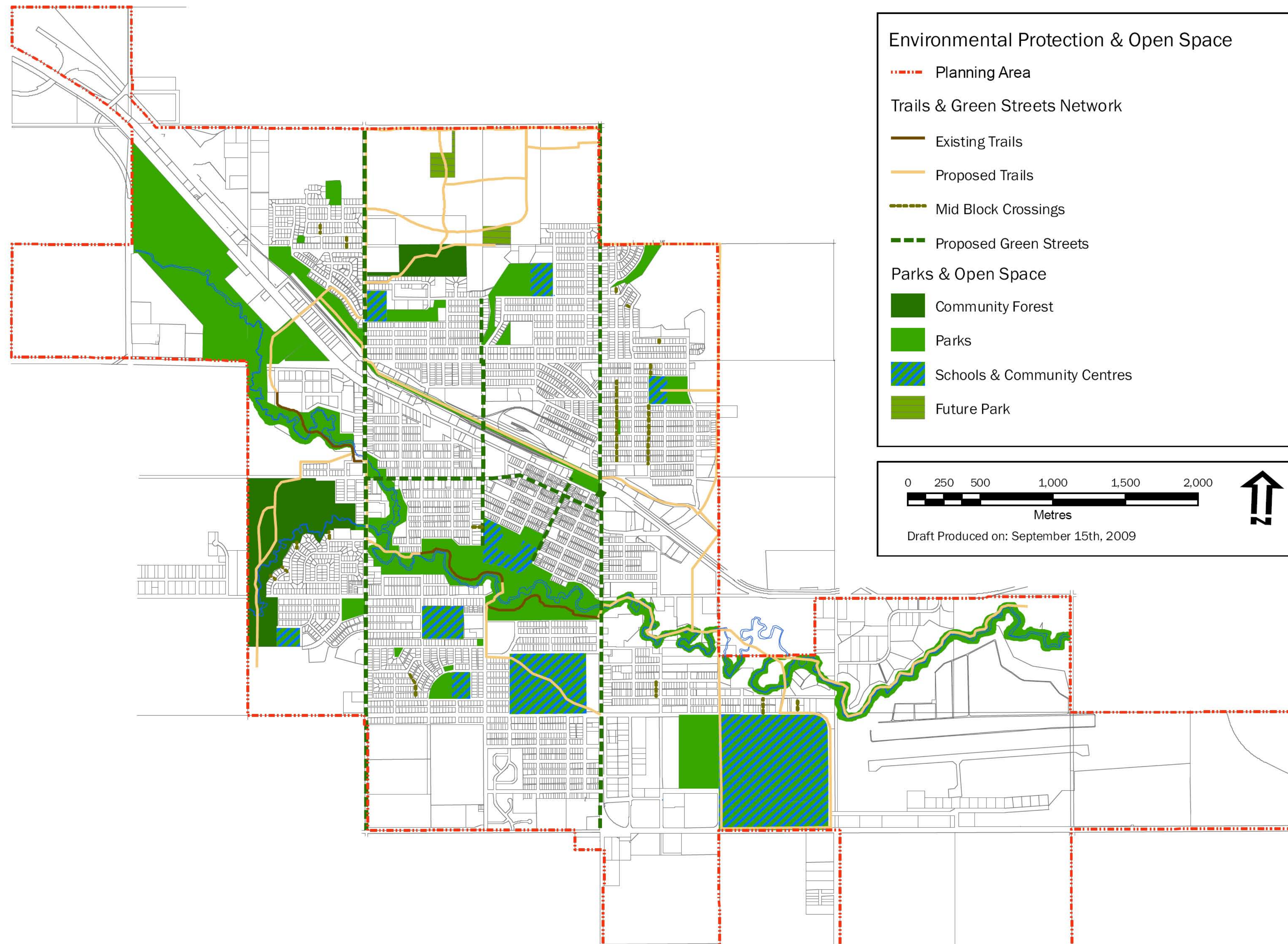


Dawson Creek Today...

- ▶ The existing trail system, with the new section, is 7 km, plus 3 km at Leoppky Park.
- ▶ 3.8 hectares of additional park space is projected to be required by 2021.
- ▶ Food security is a priority for residents, and they want to encourage local food production.
- ▶ The creeks & riparian wetland areas perform important ecological functions such as water filtration, erosion and flood control for the City. They also provide habitat and a unique recreational amenity for residents.
- ▶ Dawson Creek and its adjacent park areas are among the City's greatest assets.
- ▶ Industrial dumping in the creek is causing ecological damage.
- ▶ Leoppky and Chamberlain Parks provide the City with a unique opportunity to build on their 'urban forests' resource.

What is proposed for Environmental Protection and Open Space in the future?

- **Focus on the Creek as a premier recreational and natural amenity area**
- **Connect protected environmentally sensitive areas with a larger open space network**
- **Construct and connect proposed trail networks, such as linear (e.g. long) parks and green streets, to existing trails and mid-block crossings**
- **Acquire and prioritize parks maintenance and improvements based on environmental benefits, residents' needs, and cost efficiencies**



What are the major proposed policy changes?

- ▶ **Preserve sensitive environments** within and adjacent to Dawson Creek and other natural areas by buffering them from development through strong guidelines.
- ▶ **Use a range of policies and incentives** that work with property owners to protect sensitive environments.
- ▶ **Use green corridors and linear (e.g. long) parks** to promote healthy communities by creating alternative options for getting around, including walking and cycling.
- ▶ **Connect these corridors to the Creek**, which will be Dawson Creek's "Green Ribbon" and form part of a city-wide trail network.
- ▶ **Encourage new programming**, and event-based seasonal or commercial facilities that enliven City park spaces.
- ▶ **Increase food production** in Dawson Creek, including community gardens, and the planting of species that are edible (fruits, vegetables, nuts) in public spaces and private developments