COMMUNITY PROFILE
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ABOUT SPARWOOD
A WARM WELCOME

It’s not often you come across a place with the right mix. Where economic opportunity, family, and recreation blend together as well as they do here.

Sparwood is a Rocky Mountain community that is abundant with ambition and drive, welcoming of hard work and determination. It is a community with many facets, home to people from many backgrounds.

Located in the beautiful Elk Valley, within the East Kootenays, and conveniently central to Teck Coal’s five metallurgical coal mines, Sparwood offers convenient access to work and play for people with a keen interest in the outdoor lifestyle.
Sparwood’s Official Community Plan (OCP) looks forward to 2035 and for good reason, planning is critical to success and Sparwood is focused on creating a diverse economy that will provide a range of jobs and services to supplement the mining industry, which will continue to be our economic lifeblood.

In 2035 Sparwood will continue to promote compact development and mixed use as the means to achieve a walkable community that provides efficient and sustainable infrastructure, minimizing negative impacts on the environment.
Sparwood is located in the traditional territory of the Ktunaxa Nation, which covers approximately 70,000 km² (27,000 mi²) within the Kootenay region of southeastern British Columbia and historically included parts of Alberta, Montana, Washington and Idaho.

For more information on the history of the Ktunaxa Nation visit www.ktunaxa.org

Roots

Ktunaxa (pronounced ‘k-too-nah-ha’) people have occupied the lands adjacent to the Kootenay and Columbia Rivers and the Arrow Lakes of British Columbia, Canada for more than 10,000 years.

The Ktunaxa citizenship is comprised of Nation members from six Bands located throughout historic traditional Ktunaxa territory. Four Bands are located in British Columbia, Canada and two are in the United States. Many Ktunaxa citizens also live in urban and rural areas “off reserve”.

★ ʔakisʔnuk First Nation (Windermere)
★ ʔakinkumǂasnuqǂiʔit – Tobacco Plains Indian Band (Grasmere)
★ ʔaʔam – St. Mary’s (Cranbrook)
★ yaqan nuykiy – Lower Kootenay Band (Creston)
Sparwood sits alongside the Elk River, in an area that is very unique in terms of the incredible diversity of wildlife which coexists in this Rocky Mountain landscape. For those who like trophy hunting, there is a treasure of game to satiate the most rapacious of appetites.

A few of the choices include world renowned fly fishing in the Elk River and Michel Creek, hiking, mountain biking, camping, golf, numerous lake activities, hunting, cross country skiing and world-class alpine skiing at nearby Fernie Alpine Resort.

In the summer you can expect it to be warm enough to swim in lakes and rivers and the winter is cold enough to let you ski, snowshoe, snowmobile, and ice skate to your heart’s content.
WILDLIFE

You are surrounded by wilderness that is home to an incredible array of wildlife on major migratory routes where you can expect to see large herds of elk just outside of town, as well as white tailed and mule deer.

Black and grizzly bear roam the mountainous forests with moose grazing in the wetlands while cougar laze in amongst the tall cedars. It’s not unusual to spot bighorn sheep and mountain goats while exploring the hillsides and cliff tops and if you cast your eyes skyward you will probably spot bald eagles, golden eagles and osprey from time to time.

Down in the valley bottom, the Elk River is home to the famed westslope cutthroat trout and large bull trout so if you are a fisherman what are you waiting for?
The population of Sparwood in 2014 was estimated to be 3,927.

Sparwood is located centrally within the Elk Valley and is only twenty minutes from Fernie and a similar distance from Elkford. These communities have measured populations of approximately 4,800 and 2,500 respectively giving a total population in the local region of approximately 11,500.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Ages</td>
<td>3,665</td>
<td>1,905</td>
<td>1,760</td>
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<tr>
<td>0 to 14 years</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>325</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 to 19 years</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>120</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 to 24 years</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 to 29 years</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>110</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 to 45 years</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 64 years</td>
<td>1160</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 + years</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Median age of the population 39.5 Male 39.5 Female 39.6

% of the population aged 15 and over 82.2 Male 82.4 Female 81.9

Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey 2011
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Sparwood’s local government is led by a Mayor and six Councillors providing leadership to the community by ensuring the Administration implements the Corporate Strategic Plan to achieve their goals.

Municipal taxes are extremely competitive in all classes offering residents and businesses alike an affordable consideration. Developers can also take advantage of the fact that Sparwood has no Development Cost Charges.

In 2015, Sparwood completed the Official Community Plan process “Imagine Sparwood 2035” which provides policy direction for decision makers and community leaders to help lead towards a more complete and livable community.

The vision of the OCP is:

In 2035, Sparwood will be a caring, neighbourly and sustainable community with pride in our natural environment. A unique and vibrant downtown will be the social, cultural and economic heart of our community, with opportunities to live, work, learn, shop and play in close proximity. A diverse economy will provide a range of jobs and services to supplement the mining industry, which will continue to be our economic lifeblood. A diversity of housing options will allow residents with a range of ages, income levels and lifestyles to live comfortably in Sparwood through all stages of their lives. A world-class multi-purpose network of trails, parks, recreational areas will support an active, healthy, and highly liveable community.”
OUR GOALS ARE TO:

1) **Promote compact development** and mixed uses as a means to achieve a walkable community and the provision of efficient and sustainable infrastructure, with minimal negative impacts on the environment.

2) **Enhance downtown**, by promoting high quality design and construction that reinforces Sparwood’s unique sense of place and heritage, to become the social, cultural, and economic heart of our community with opportunities to live, work, learn, shop, and play.

3) **Support a diverse economy** that provides a wide range of jobs and services.

4) **Support and enhance local food production** and protect forested lands while managing fire risk.

5) **Encourage, promote, and celebrate local heritage, culture, and arts.**

6) **Encourage the provision of diverse housing options** that allow residents with a range of ages, income levels, and lifestyles to live comfortably in the community through all stages of their lives.

7) **Support a healthy, safe, and engaged community** through social development, community services, and civic engagement.

8) **Provide and manage infrastructure and services**, including potable water, sewage, stormwater, and roads, in a cost effective and sustainable manner.

9) **Provide a safe and efficient multi-modal transportation system** that balances vehicular traffic with active transportation.

10) **Encourage an active and healthy community**, through the development, maintenance, and enhancement of high quality parks, passive and active recreational facilities and programs, and active transportation infrastructure.

11) **Preserve the natural environment** and reduce our carbon footprint.

12) **Protect sand and gravel resource extraction areas in the community.**

13) **Provide flexibility in land uses** to promote business and commercial development.

To find out more about the OCP please contact the Planning Department using the contact details below:

Contact the District of Sparwood:
Phone (250) 425-6271
Fax (250) 425-7277
Website www.sparwood.ca
Email sparwood@sparwood.ca
ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT
Sparwood is located adjacent to the rich coal fields of southeast British Columbia, home to the best metallurgical (steel making) coal in the world, giving it a strong resource-based economy. Coal extraction dominates the economy, but forestry related industries and tourism also contribute significantly. Diversification of the economic base through service related industries provides a prime opportunity for new business ventures.

Proactive investment in fibre optic broadband infrastructure is helping to position Sparwood as a business district that is primed well to cater to businesses keen to locate to the region.
INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

The majority of employment in the immediate area is provided either directly or indirectly by the mines with the high income levels providing a strong economic base for local commercial ventures.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The local branch of WorkBC, Elk Valley Employment Centre (CMHA) is located 20 minutes away in Fernie with periodic outreach to Sparwood. www.ekemployment.org

Median household income 23% higher than provincial average.

Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Industries</td>
<td>2,075</td>
<td>1,190</td>
<td>880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining; quarrying; and oil and gas extraction</td>
<td>665</td>
<td>545</td>
<td>125</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health care and social assistance</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>165</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wholesale trade</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail trade</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other services (except public administration)</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation and warehousing</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public administration</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Real estate and rental and leasing</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accommodation and food services</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts; entertainment and recreation</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance and insurance</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative support; waste management and remediation services</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture; forestry; fishing and hunting</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional; scientific and technical services</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Coal has been mined in the Elk Valley since 1898. It is the region’s leading resource product, and accounts for almost all of the coal produced in British Columbia providing 0.5% of Canada’s GDP. Most of the coal produced from Elk Valley mines is metallurgical coal, which is exported to Asia for use in steel production and for other industrial purposes.

Elk Valley coal is relatively low in sulphur, making it clean to burn compared with coal from other deposits.

There are three new mine permit applications in stream with the Environmental Assessment Office and one expansion for Elkview, the Baldy Ridge Extension.

- Teck Coal - Baldy Ridge Extension at Elkview minesite
- Centermount Coal Bingay Main Coal, project north of Elkford
- NWP Coal Canada Limited - Crown Mountain Coking Coal Project, 13 km northeast of Sparwood
- CanAus Michel Creek Coking Coal, 15 km southeast of Sparwood

TECK COAL LIMITED

Teck’s coal division includes six metallurgical coal mines in British Columbia and Alberta and is the world’s second largest exporter of seaborne hard coking coal.

The Coal Mountain, Elkview, Fording River, Greenhills, and Line Creek mines are located in southeastern British Columbia, near Sparwood, approximately 1,100 kilometres from the ports near Vancouver, British Columbia.

Following mining, the coal is washed using a variety of conventional techniques and conveyed to dryers for drying. The coal preparation plants are all conventional wash plants using standard technology of cycloning and heavy media flotation.

Clean coal is shipped mainly by rail to Westshore Terminals and Neptune Terminals near Vancouver, British Columbia for shipment to overseas customers and either directly by rail or by rail and ship to Thunder Bay Terminals in Ontario to customers in eastern North America. www.teck.com
FORESTRY

CANFOR CORPORATION

Canfor, a leading integrated forest products company based in Vancouver, operates sawmills at Radium Hot Springs and Elko and manages approximately 1.3 million cubic metres of Crown and private forest lands in the East Kootenays.

The Canal Flats, Radium Hot Springs and Elko mills have approximately 450 employees, and produce high-quality dimension lumber, including Canfor’s premium RED brand and J-Grade products for the Japanese market. In 2013, Canfor invested $40 million to modernize the Elko mill, improving productivity and cost performance.

Canfor directly and indirectly employs approximately 1100 people on its forest tenures in the East Kootenays.

Canfor’s forest operations in the Elk Valley are third-party certified to the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standard, and the Elko and Canal Flats mills meet FSC’s chain-of-custody requirements. They produce fibre for Canfor’s sawmills and for the Paper Excellence Group’s pulp mill at Skookumchuck. As an integrated forest products company, Canfor turns virtually 100% of the fibre it harvests into useful, sustainable products. www.canfor.com

CANWEL BUILDING MATERIALS GROUP LTD.

On March 9, 2016, CanWel Building Materials Group Ltd and Jemi Fibre Corporation announced they had entered into a “definitive agreement” in which CanWel would acquire all of the issued shares of Jemi Fibre.

Jemi’s operations consisted of timber ownership and management of private timberlands and Crown forest licenses, full service logging and trucking operations, post-peeling and wood treatment operations for the agricultural market and specialty lumber manufacturing.

The Company’s main operations were focused in the East Kootenays of British Columbia, where it owned over 135,000 acres of private timberland, harvested under the Private Managed Forest Land Act (British Columbia), wood persevering operations in the Cranbrook area and a value-added sawmill in Edgewater. In addition, Jemi was the largest stump-to-dump logging and trucking contractor in the East Kootenays, employing over 200 people in the area. To learn more about this acquisition and CanWel’s services visit www.canwel.com
CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

2015 saw another progression in Sparwood’s development. Prompted by investments from large international businesses, the next stage of construction will include an intersection on Highway #3 and #43 with a mixed use development known as Middletown Crossing on the south of Highway #3. This project will provide space for industrial, commercial and potentially retail with the construction of a $35m facility for Joy Global being the first phase of the project.

In addition to the development on the south side of the highway, the north side of the highway will also see construction with further commercial business planned, such as the Tim Hortons which opened in December 2015.

EMERGING INDUSTRIES

Sparwood continues to work towards creating a climate that supports small business creation and encourages entrepreneurship.

The District also views significant opportunity for other sectors including technology led and manufacturing businesses that could take advantage of the strong industry base as a foundation for growth as well as the fibre optic infrastructure allowing consistent high speed communication.
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Sparwood District Chamber of Commerce was incorporated in 1983 and operates the Chamber, the Business Information Centre and the Visitor Information Centre from offices located at Titan Park in Sparwood.

Working closely with the District of Sparwood, the Chamber promotes business and tourism within and around the community and the Elk Valley.

The Chamber’s main objective is to sustain existing business, enhance business opportunities and improve the economic, social, ecological and cultural wellbeing of the community.

The Chamber can also help with enquiries for new residents looking for information on accessing services such as schools, day care and education.

You can contact the Chamber at:
Phone (250) 425-2423
Website www.sparwoodchamber.bc.ca
Email manager@sparwoodchamber.bc.ca
COMMUNITY SERVICES
EDUCATION

Sparwood is located within School District #5 (Southeast Kootenay) and offers a comprehensive range of education opportunities.

Frank J. Mitchell Elementary K – 6
Approximately 200 students
www.sd5.bc.ca/school/fjmes

Sparwood Secondary School 7 – 12
Approximately 300 students
www.sd5.bc.ca/school/sss

College of the Rockies
The College of the Rockies (COTR) has been serving the communities of the East Kootenay since 1975. COTR’s main campus is located in Cranbrook with satellite campuses in Creston, Fernie, Golden, Kimberley and Invermere. The college offers a wide range of traditional and online vocational programming. www.cotr.bc.ca

The University of Lethbridge in Alberta
Located two hours east on Highway 3. The University of Lethbridge (U of L) is one of Canada’s most influential research universities and one of Canada’s top-three undergraduate institutions (2014 Macleans University Rankings).

The University offers more than 150 undergraduate programs and more than 60 graduate programs in six faculties and schools: Arts & Science; Education; Fine Arts; Health Sciences; and Management and Graduate Studies. Each year, approximately 8,300 students attend the U of L, which also offers select programs on its campuses in Calgary and Edmonton. www.uleth.ca

Lethbridge College
Lethbridge College offers a wide spectrum of courses in human services, health, trades, technologies, justice, environmental science and more, on a campus of 274 acres with 4,000 student enrollments annually.

The college also has a campus at Crownsnest Pass, just 40 minutes drive away offering programming in business, training and development, early childhood development and educational assistant training, as well as industrial and technical training and other options available via e-learning. www.lethbridgecollege.ca

Reeves College
Reeves College offers vocational training licensed under the Private Vocational Schools Act. Reeves College was established in 1961 by Mr. C. J. Reeves, a professional secretary and instructor. The College provides diploma programs in business, healthcare, legal administration and art and design, that enable our grads to find employment in their chosen field of study. www.reevescollege.ca

Red Crow Community College
Red Crow Community College was founded in 1986. It was placed under the direction of the Blood Tribe Education Committee and started as an adult education centre. The curriculum was two high school courses (UCEPP), one University of Lethbridge course, and a study skills component. In early 1995 the college became the first Tribal College in Canada. Its board of governors was officially sanctioned by the Blood Tribe Chief and Council, transferring governance for its education from the Kainaiwa Board of Education to the Red Crow Community College Board. www.redcrowcollege.com
HEALTH SERVICES

Sparwood is located within the Interior Health Authority district and provides a robust selection of health and care services.

The Sparwood Healthcare Centre is one of ten Primary Health Care Centres available within Interior Health communities with an interdisciplinary healthcare team that provide a range of services, such as emergency room, lab, dialysis, radiology, physiotherapy and a wellness centre.

Other local health services:
★ Acupuncture
★ Chiropractic
★ Dentists
★ Massage Therapy
★ Naturopathy
★ Pharmacy

Sparwood Health Unit is designed for community health care providing public health nursing programs, adult mental health programs, environmental health work, home nursing care, alcohol/drug counseling and home support.

Elk Valley Hospital, a fully serviced facility, is only 20 minutes away in Fernie.
GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Within the Sparwood area, there are three levels of government services available – local, provincial and federal.

LOCAL

Municipal government in British Columbia consists of an elected Mayor and between four to eight Councillors (the “Council”), depending upon the size of the community, that serve a four-year term. Council is responsible for establishing policies for the community and passing bylaws and resolutions based on those policies. Municipal (District of Sparwood) employees are responsible for implementing Council’s decisions and administering various municipal services including engineering, building permits, licensing, planning, and parks and recreation.

The District of Sparwood is part of a regional local government body (Regional District of East Kootenay) that administers joint services that are more regional in nature. www.rdek.bc.ca

PROVINCIAL

The Government of B.C. is made up of various ministries, agencies and Crown corporations. Public Service is divided into ministries and each ministry is responsible for a specific area of public policy, government function or service delivery. In Sparwood, these services are available through the ServiceBC office located in the Greenwood Shopping Mall. For more information on the most current and popular services available please visit their website at www.servicebc.gov.bc.ca

The Legislative Assembly of British Columbia is divided into eighty-five constituencies, with Sparwood located within the Kootenay East constituency. To find out who the current MLA is for Sparwood, visit www.leg.bc.ca

FEDERAL

Federal government services are provided through Service Canada, which include education and training, employment, housing, income assistance, legal assistance, personal documents, savings plans, special events, business start up and travel. The nearest Service Canada office is located in Cranbrook. For more information on the services they provide please visit www.servicecanada.gc.ca

British Columbia has forty-two Members of Parliament who represent both local and regional concerns in the House of Commons. To find out who the current MP is for Sparwood, visit www.parl.gc.ca
UTILITIES

ELECTRICITY & NATURAL GAS
Sparwood’s utilities are provided by B.C. Hydro and Fortis gas.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES
The District of Sparwood provides water, sewer and garbage collection. Residential weekly garbage pick-up is provided with higher frequency in commercial areas where necessary. Recycling is a regional service provided through the Regional District of East Kootenay, with drop-off depots located throughout town.

DRINKING WATER
Sparwood’s drinking water is some of the best in the world! It is chlorine free and supplied by three municipal wells. In 2006, the District of Sparwood won a bronze medal for the best Municipal Water at the Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting Competition.

TELEPHONE SERVICE
Telus and Shaw provide landline local phone service throughout the region. A range of carriers provide long distance, cellular (including 4G, LTE, etc.) and cable services.
INTERNET SERVICES

Broadband service is provided by Telus and Shaw. Sparwood has a fibre optic backbone over 4 km long with a Network Operation Centre (NOC) located in the Municipal Office.

In addition to the existing backbone infrastructure there is additional conduit that has been installed to accept future fibre optic cable to connect other parts of the community.

A re-seller utilises the fibre to service various businesses and School District 5 by connecting their locations.

The NOC is connected out to Shaw’s Internet service so users of the District’s fibre are able to access very high speed Internet of up to 50mbps upload and download.

Future broadband infrastructure developments will occur in partnership with CBBC (Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation). CBBC is working across the Columbia Basin to connect communities and rural areas and help them consider how to use that connectivity to benefit their community and residents. At every step of the way, CBBC works with communities and rural areas to understand obstacles to connectivity and enhance their capacity to connect to a regional network.

To consider CBBC’s plans visit www.cbt.org/Initiatives/Broadband

MEDIA

Local television stations include CBC, CTV – (CFCN) Lethbridge CISA.

Local radio stations include The Drive (99.1), Summit 107, CBC FM, and CBC-AM from Kelowna.

Local Newspapers include: The Free Press, Kootenay News Advertiser, The Elk Valley Herald as well as East Kootenay Online Weekly, e-know.ca online.
REAL ESTATE

Sparwood offers a wide variety of apartments, townhouses, and single family homes throughout the various areas of town.

The ability to access services via walking or cycling is of increasing importance to the community, and as such, continual investment in connecting trail networks is underway.

A recent addition to the community was a pedestrian bridge that connects Sparwood Heights, in the north of town to the downtown core.

New housing developments include Whiskey Jack and Cherrywood, both of which have serviced lots available for purchase.

Senior citizen housing is also available, all located within walking distance of shopping:

**Lilac Terrace:** The Elk Valley Seniors Housing Society operates Lilac Terrace. Lilac Terrace offers an affordable range of supported independent living options for seniors with 42 apartments, 1 respite and 1 palliative unit. [www.lilacterrace.net](http://www.lilacterrace.net)

**Sasko Manor:** 18 self-contained units on 3 floors operated by BC Housing. [www.bchousing.org](http://www.bchousing.org)

**Sparwood Senior Citizens Villa:** 39 one-bedroom units.

Custom Real Estate: [www.elkvalleylistings.com](http://www.elkvalleylistings.com)
Fernie Real Estate: [www.fernierealestate.com](http://www.fernierealestate.com)
Property Guys [www.propertyguys.com/bc/sparwood](http://www.propertyguys.com/bc/sparwood)
Remax Elk Valley Realty: [www.sparwoodrealestate.ca](http://www.sparwoodrealestate.ca)
Royal Lepage East Kootenay Realty [www.ekrealty.com](http://www.ekrealty.com)
TOURISM
AND RECREATION
TOURISM & RECREATION

Sparwood is located in the heart of some the most beautiful scenery in the Canadian Rocky Mountains and boasts some of the densest wildlife populations in North America.

The second largest centre on the Elk River, Sparwood has a rich history, although it is one of the youngest towns in British Columbia. Visitors to this ‘best kept secret in the Rocky Mountains’ will enjoy the great outdoors.

Beyond this alpine community exists a treasure of high country adventure. Fly fishing in mountain lakes and streams exceed every angler’s expectation. Whitewater rafting opportunities are abundant and hiking or biking on old forestry roads provide opportunities for viewing deer, elk or bighorn sheep, and promises rare photo opportunities.

In addition, community parks are favourites for picnics and evening strolls. Sparwood’s mining history is depicted in murals painted on the buildings in the downtown core and mining artifacts that can be viewed on a self-guided walking tour, see the Visitor and Information Centre for more information.

www.sparwoodchamber.bc.ca

For up to date information on recreational programming visit www.sparwood.ca
FACILITIES

Facilities available for recreation and tourism within the Sparwood area include:

**POOL & LEISURE CENTRE**  
- All-season saltwater indoor pool (handicapped-accessible)  
- Whirlpool  
- Sauna  
- Two racquetball volleyball and squash courts  
- Physical fitness room  
- Child-play room  
- Climbing wall  
- Weight training centre  
- Arts room  
- Children’s programs  
- Swim club  
- Arena/Curling rink  
- Hockey  
- Figure skating  
- Recreational ice skating  
- Various sports fields and courts

**SPARWOOD GOLF COURSE**  
- Nine hole golf course, driving range, clubhouse, and cart path to campground.

**OUTDOOR SPARWOOD ACTIVITIES**  
- Linear community parks and hiking trails system  
- Mountain Shadows Campground  
- Rifle range  
- Cross country ski trails  
- Horseback riding  
- Disc golf  
- Mountain bike trails  
- World class fishing

**FERNIE ALPINE RESORT**  
- Alpine skiing  
- Downhill mountain biking (summer)  
- Aerial Park (summer)

**NEARBY ACTIVITIES AND ATTRACTIONS**  
- Elk River cycling/pedestrian Bridge  
- Elk Lakes Provincial Park (north of Elkford)  
- Award winning snowmobile trails  
- Cross country ski trails  
- Horseback riding  
- Mountain bike trails  
- The Booming Ice Chasm caves in Crowsnest Pass  
- Mountain climbing, hunting and fishing
POINTS OF INTEREST

★ Largest off-highway haul truck in the world. The Terex Titan. This “World’s Largest Truck” is on display at the entrance to town at the Visitor Information Centre.

★ Historic murals (some by Dan Sawatzky of Chemainus, others by local artists)

★ The ARCH, made from the historical brick from the Michel Powerhouse, honouring the coal miner

★ Mine artifacts self-guided walking tour showing the history of mining in the valley

★ Miner’s Memorial in Centennial Square

★ Coal mine tours (July and August) at the Chamber of Commerce

★ Nature trails throughout the community. Maps are available from the Visitor Information Centre

★ Michel-Natal-Sparwood Heritage Museum offers a glance into the community’s past

★ Coal Discovery Trail - valley bottom trail to Fernie

★ Local summer celebrations - Coal Miner Days in June and Farmers Market on Fridays in the summer.

★ Elk Lakes Provincial Park is located north of Elkford. It is home to the source of the Elk River and is a wilderness paradise with incredible camping and exploring

★ Grave Lake day area offers a beautiful natural setting to spend a day
CULTURAL & SOCIAL AMENITIES

Greenwood Mall and Centennial Square provide most of the retail services to residents and tourists traveling through on Highway 3.

BANKING
Sparwood’s financial sector is served by the CIBC, Royal Bank of Canada and East Kootenay Credit Union.

LIBRARY
Sparwood Public Library - membership is free and your BC OneCard is valid in any other BC public library. The first 1/2 hour of internet use is free for local residents, then $1.00 per hour thereafter. www.bc.libraries.coop

SERVICE GROUPS
Lions Club, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 81, Knights of Columbus and others.

PLACES OF WORSHIP
St. Michael’s Catholic Church
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Sparwood Fellowship Baptist
Sparwood Christian Centre
Jehovah Witnesses’ Kingdom Hall
THE BUSINESS CASE
THE BUSINESS CASE

Sparwood has a wealth of opportunity for businesses. The local mines provide a stable base of employment as well as the platform for additional businesses that support mining activities. This base coupled with the above Provincial average income within the community helps make a case for investment in Sparwood.

Sparwood is welcoming to new business and works with the Chamber to accommodate and facilitate appropriate development.

Recent years have seen an increasing level of interest in business investment in the community with a number of large developments and business expansions underway or slated for construction. During 2014/2015 the Greenwood Mall has seen internal and external renovations.

Sparwood has recently implemented a downtown revitalisation tax exemption program to help stimulate development within the downtown core and in addition has no development cost charges.
BIG REASONS TO INVEST IN SPARWOOD

★ Strong and stable industry: five Rocky Mountain coal mines with forecasted continual expansion and four new or expanding mines currently in the permitting process
★ Educated and experienced workforce
★ Strategically located on Highway 3 and CPR rail lines
★ Three hours to Calgary, AB and less than one to the US border
★ No development cost charges (DCCs)
★ 100 megabit fibre optic infrastructure
★ Incredible recreation opportunities
★ Safe and secure
★ Did we mention the Rocky Mountains?
DIVERSIFICATION

Sparwood is diversifying. As a result of its relationship with the coal industry, Sparwood is an enviable and soundly positioned community.

This foundation, coupled with its situation regarding resources and proximity to recreation amenities make Sparwood a highly attractive community for innovators, entrepreneurs, and businesses ready to operate in a secure and developing environment. The District of Sparwood is actively seeking both businesses that compliment existing industry, and those that can capitalize on its strengths and opportunities. Sparwood is committed to fostering further economic diversification and sustainability for existing and future generations.

BUSINESS RESOURCES

SPARWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
P.O. Box 1448
Sparwood, British Columbia
Canada V0B 2G0
Tel: (250) 425 - 2423
Fax: (250) 425 - 7130

E-mail: manager@sparwoodchamber.bc.ca
Web: www.sparwoodchamber.bc.ca

DISTRICT OF SPARWOOD
P.O. Box 520
Sparwood, British Columbia
Canada V0B 2G0
Tel: (250) 425 - 6271
Fax: (250) 425 - 7277

E-mail: sparwood@sparwood.ca
Web: www.sparwood.ca
COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) was created in 1995 to support efforts by the people of the Basin to create social, economic and environmental well-being in the Canadian portion of the Columbia River Basin. The CBT is mandated under the Columbia Basin Trust Act to manage its assets for the ongoing economic, environmental and social benefit of the region, without relieving governments of any obligations in the region. The CBT is also mandated under the Columbia Basin Management Plan to include the people of the Basin in planning for the management of the assets and to work with others to coordinate activities related to the purpose of the CBT.

The CBT supports efforts by the people of the Basin to create a legacy of social, economic and environmental well-being and to achieve greater self-sufficiency for present and future generations.

For more information on the CBT visit www.cbt.org

COLUMBIA BASIN RURAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

The Rural Development Institute (RDI) is a regional centre of excellence in applied research and information provision focused on strengthening rural communities in the Columbia Basin Boundary region of British Columbia. The RDI is supported through a partnership between the CBT and Selkirk College. The RDI is funded by the CBT through an 8-year partnership agreement. Selkirk College supports the operation of the institute through its infrastructure and specific capabilities, including the Regional Innovation Chair in Rural Economic Development who serves as the RDI Lead Researcher.

The RDI supports the collection and use of economic, social, cultural and environmental indicator research; provides ongoing analysis of related trends and connects indicators to plans and planning processes; supports the efforts of economic development groups through the provision of relevant and timely research and best practice tools and processes; engages in applied rural revitalization research in partnership with regional, provincial and national networks; assists in regional economic diversification through the promotion of innovation and knowledge transfer; supports informed decision-making through ongoing research based on regional priorities; and builds capacity through collaborative working partnerships with existing organizations, networks and experts. www.cbrdi.ca/state-of-the-basin

COMMUNITY FUTURES EAST KOOTENAY

Community Futures East Kootenay (CFEK) promotes economic development and the creation of jobs and wealth in our region by providing small-business loans for start-up, expansion or the purchase of existing businesses. In addition to financial support, CFEK offers a variety of business-related services, including knowledgeable, professional business consultation and access to training for entrepreneurs and their employees. www.cfek.ca

KOOTENAY ROCKIES INNOVATION COUNCIL

Kootenay Rockies Innovation Council (KRIC) is dedicated to fostering a culture of innovation as well as the development of science and technology in the East Kootenays.

As a non-profit, KRIC provides programming and events targeted at businesses, communities and students/educators related to science, technology and innovation. Led by a volunteer board of directors, the Council’s primary funding is provided by the BC Innovation Council. www.kric.ca