

WEST KELOWNA FIRE RESCUE FACILITIES UPDATE #2 JUNE 2023



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INVEST IN
INFRASTRUCTURE



INTRODUCTION



West Kelowna Fire Rescue (WKFR) provides emergency response, fire prevention and rescue services for the West Kelowna and Westbank First Nation area. As a growing region, WKFR and City staff continue to address public safety and ongoing operations and administrative needs within its current facilities to protect local communities and its natural assets.

Building on the first West Kelowna Fire Rescue Facilities Update issued in March 2022, the purpose of this second update is to highlight that the site for Fire Hall #32 (FH #32) in the Lakeview Heights neighbourhood has been selected, and to outline our next steps.

As described in Update #1 issued in March 2022, the existing FH #32 was built in 1971 and is no longer adequate to serve the operational needs of WKFR. Council and staff have been evaluating opportunities and constraints that come with replacing the fire hall.

An underwriters study determined that the location of the new fire hall had to be close to its current location to ensure minimal impact to property insurance and risk. Multiple sites were investigated and City-owned land in the immediate area of the current fire hall was determined to be the most suitable. The site at 860 Anders Road underwent a feasibility assessment beginning in 2020, which determined this site would meet the requirements.

Fire hall facilities are deployed strategically throughout West Kelowna to provide a rapid response to emergencies. Having single family residences no more than 8 km from a fire station and no multifamily or commercial structure more than 5 km away ensures an insurance grading of “protected status” keeping insurance rates low. When selecting the site as the new location from the existing Fire Hall #32, preference was given to keep the new site as close as possible to the existing site to maintain this balance, and not to take away this level of protection from any existing parcel. To ensure that fire and life safety services are maintained around the clock, decommissioning of the existing FH #32 would need to occur after the replacement fire hall is built.

Nederman

Nederman



FIRE HALL #32 SITE SELECTED



Multiple sites in West Kelowna were investigated, and it was determined that the most effective and efficient location for the Fire Hall #32 replacement would be at 860 Anders Road. This site is the current location of Anders Park and the concept identifies that the existing site could co-locate a Fire Hall and maintain the existing uses as a park. As this is a city-owned site no land costs are required.

The park area is currently comprised of a small turf play field, small playground, a sport court and an eight-court tennis facility. Upgrades and modifications to the park and amenities will form part of the overall concept design as the next stages of the project proceeds. Continued stakeholder and public consultation remains a priority as the project takes shape, and project updates will be widely publicized and posted on our OurWK.ca engagement portal.

The new fire hall site provides for a relatively level building surface reducing substantial regrading costs or retaining walls and offers an elevated view of the court features. The location is also in the heart of the rapidly growing urbanizing Lakeview Heights community. Upgrades to the Anders Road frontage west of the fire hall would be enhanced with landscaping and trees and shrubs making the facility frontage much more pleasing than currently exists.

For more information and to review our Frequently Asked Questions document, please visit westkelownacity.ca/firerescue.





New Fire Hall Location

Anders Rd

Existing Fire Hall #32

**New Fire Hall Location
860 Anders Rd**

WHAT'S NEXT



At this stage, only the site selection has been completed. Future project phases that would be developed for Council's consideration generally include business case development, concept design for the site, facilities and park amenities that include stakeholder and public consultation, estimates and budget planning, detailed design with continued consultations that all form part of the planning process.

Once the next phases of the project have been developed, staff will provide Council with a report that outlines the overall scope of the project, each phase and anticipated timing for their consideration. Please visit the back page of this document to learn more and stay connected with us as the project is developed.





CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY



As a young city, we are planning for the future while taking care of today. We're investing in infrastructure, our economic growth and prosperity, strengthening our community and fostering safety and well-being. As each initiative within Council's four Strategic Priority pillars is planned and implemented, we'll be working closely with stakeholders and the public so issues and opportunities are included at every step of the way.


From updating our Official Community Plan to capital project consultations, we're aligning our operational plan communication and consultations to better coordinate and enhance our service levels. Your opinion matters and we want to hear from you!

We need your involvement to help make West Kelowna one of the most desirable places to live, work and play. Have your say and please stay connected with us.


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