

# City of West Kelowna Recreational Trails Master Plan

August 2024





Gellatly Bay Recreation Corridor

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## MAP

Map A: Existing Trails (2023)
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## APPENDICES

Appendix A: Typical Recreational Trail Design Details (Bylaw No. 0249)
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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



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The City of West Kelowna is on the Traditional  
Territory of the Syilx/Okanagan Peoples.

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The *Recreational Trails Master Plan* update team would like to thank City Mayor and Council, City staff, the Regional District of Central Okanagan, Westbank First Nation, our diverse and dedicated local interest group representatives, and the many community members who use and care for recreational trails in West Kelowna. The input shared by participants has provided valuable information to help shape this *Recreational Trails Master Plan* update and guide how we plan, develop, and manage the City's recreational trails network in the years to come.

This Plan was prepared by the City of West Kelowna with support from Lanarc 2015 Consultants Ltd. and Licker Geospatial Consulting Co.

## **DOCUMENT PHOTO CREDITS:**

We gratefully acknowledge the contribution of photographs for this document by: Darren Hull, Michael Hintringer Photography, Jonathan Behnke, and T. Stechman

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Introduction

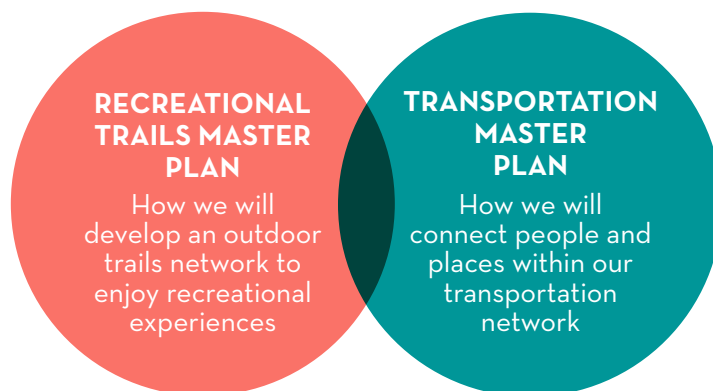
The *Recreational Trails Master Plan* provides overall direction and guidance for planning, developing, operating, and investing in West Kelowna's recreational trails network over a long-term (10-year) horizon.

### WHAT'S IN THE RECREATIONAL TRAILS MASTER PLAN?

- ▶ An introduction to recreational trails planning and the process.
- ▶ An overview of West Kelowna's context.
- ▶ Analysis of West Kelowna's recreational trails network and related trails networks.
- ▶ A framework for the future, including nine guiding goals.
- ▶ A set of 21 recommendations with details about why they are recommended, design considerations, actions, and costs.
- ▶ An implementation summary outlining short, medium, and long-term priorities.
- ▶ Supporting mapping and information.

### DEFINING RECREATIONAL TRAILS

This plan focuses on **Recreational Trails** which provide fun outdoor recreation experiences, typically within park spaces, and are managed by the City's Parks Department. They are distinct from **Active Transportation Routes** which provide safe, reliable transportation between City neighbourhoods and destinations and are managed by the City's Engineering Department through the *Transportation Master Plan*.



Trails managed by others like the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO), Westbank First Nation (WFN), non-profit organizations, or others are also outside the scope of this plan, though they are considered in planning as part of the broader network.

# Recreational Trails Today

See Section 2.0 (p.11)

A 2023 snapshot of West Kelowna's existing recreational trails network provides a baseline for current state and future planning.



## RESOURCE LIMITATIONS

Limited resources is identified as the key challenge faced by recreational trails. A lack of dedicated resources means recreational trails works are addressed on an issues basis, without proactive management.

Other challenges include:

- ▶ Barriers to connectivity
- ▶ Increased trail use
- ▶ Unauthorized routes
- ▶ Trail safety
- ▶ Lack of information
- ▶ Climate change
- ▶ Environmental management
- ▶ Missed opportunities for trail development

## RECREATIONAL TRAIL TYPES

There are 3 typical types of recreational trails in West Kelowna based on location, type, and amount of use.



### MAJOR MULTI-USE TRAIL

USE: High

LOCATIONS:  
Major routes through parks or along the waterfront



### NARROW MULTI-USE TRAIL

USE: Moderate

LOCATIONS:  
Community or neighbourhood connectors, major creek corridors, major routes through natural areas, irrigation flumes



### NATURE TRAIL

USE: Low

LOCATIONS:  
Natural areas, minor creek corridors, hillsides

## TRAIL RATING SYSTEM

West Kelowna's recreational trails follow a simple three-level rating system that is compatible with the RDCO Regional Parks trails ratings.



**GREEN CIRCLE**  
Easy



**BLUE SQUARE**  
Moderate



**BLACK DIAMOND**  
Difficult


## **COMMUNITY IDEA THEMES** what people would like to see for the future


-  **Existing Network Improvements**
-  **Quality and Safety**
-  **Mapping and Wayfinding**
-  **Trail Use Management/  
Asset Management**
-  **Natural Environment Protection**
-  **Amenities**


## **KEY TRENDS** that influence recreational trails planning


- Climate Change** can increase risks for impacts like wildfire or erosion
- Active Outdoor Lifestyles** increase participation in activities that use trails
- Tourism** is supported by recreational trails
- Multi-Modal Transportation** is adding demand for pedestrian/cyclist connectivity
- A Growing Community** impacts informal trails and access into recreational networks
- Inclusivity** is enhanced by accessible experiences on recreational trails
- Technological Advances** provide new approaches to wayfinding, communications, and experiences


## **GOALS** Provide overall guidance for the future of recreational trails in West Kelowna.


 **GOAL 1:** Provide a publicly-accessible, connected recreational trails system with links to all parts of the community.


 **GOAL 2:** Establish the trails system as a destination for residents and visitors, with natural attractions and varied, year-round recreation opportunities.


 **GOAL 3:** Provide opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, and lifestyles to experience trails in West Kelowna safely, securely, and comfortably.


 **GOAL 4:** Improve the quality and consistency of trail management and maintenance, with sufficient resources to effectively maintain trails assets.

 **GOAL 5:** Provide clear and accessible information about recreational trails to support wayfinding and code of conduct.

 **GOAL 6:** Balance protection of natural areas and building climate resiliency with public access and connectivity.

 **GOAL 7:** Take steps to improve responsible trails use and reduce conflicts among trail users.

 **GOAL 8:** Encourage and support the engagement and involvement of user groups and partners in trail stewardship.

 **GOAL 9:** Establish positive relationships and pursue partnerships with trail users, volunteers, neighbouring municipalities, RDCO, WFN, the Province, and the development community.



# A Path Forward: Recommendations See Section 4.0 (p.31)

The *Recreational Trails Master Plan* provides a set of recommendations for implementing the ideas, values, and priorities generated through the planning process.

The following pages provide a summary of recommendations included in the *Recreational Trails Master Plan* and references to their pages in the report.

## **P** TRAIL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations on how the overall recreational trails network should develop over the coming decade, including an approach to planning and developing the network, as well as steps the City can take to support a network that is safe, comfortable, and connected.

### **P1 Recreational Trails Scope (p.36)**

Focus the scope of recreational trails on off-road routes and plan collaboratively for them alongside active transportation routes (managed through the Transportation Master Plan)

### **P2 Asset Management & Resourcing (p.37)**

Develop a Parks & Recreational Trails Asset Management Plan to assess current assets and plan for life-cycle management

### **P3 Trails on Private Lands (p.39)**

Encourage/support trails through privately-owned lands where there are willing landowners and community benefits.

### **P4 Parks & Recreational Trails Guidelines (p.41)**

Incorporate updated recreational trails guidelines into the new Parks & Recreational Trails Design Guidelines to provide clear, consistent guidance on design.

### **P5 Trailheads (p.42)**

Continue to add new trailheads and improve existing trailheads throughout the network.

### **P6 Wayfinding & Signage (p.44)**

Enhance digital and physical wayfinding and signage to increase community awareness and improve access to information.

### **P7 Trail Rating & Accessibility (p.46)**

Provide information about level of difficulty within the network and seek opportunities to increase accessibility in key locations.

### **P8 Trail Safety & Security (p.47)**

Undertake improvements to enhance safety and security on recreational trails.

# M TRAIL MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for managing the recreational trails network so it continues to provide long-term community benefit.

## **M1 Environmental Management (p.50)**

Plan and manage recreational trails in a way that respects the natural environment.

## **M2 Trail Maintenance (p.52)**

Develop and implement a systematic approach to maintaining recreational trails.

## **M3 Trail Use Guidelines & Codes of Conduct (p.54)**

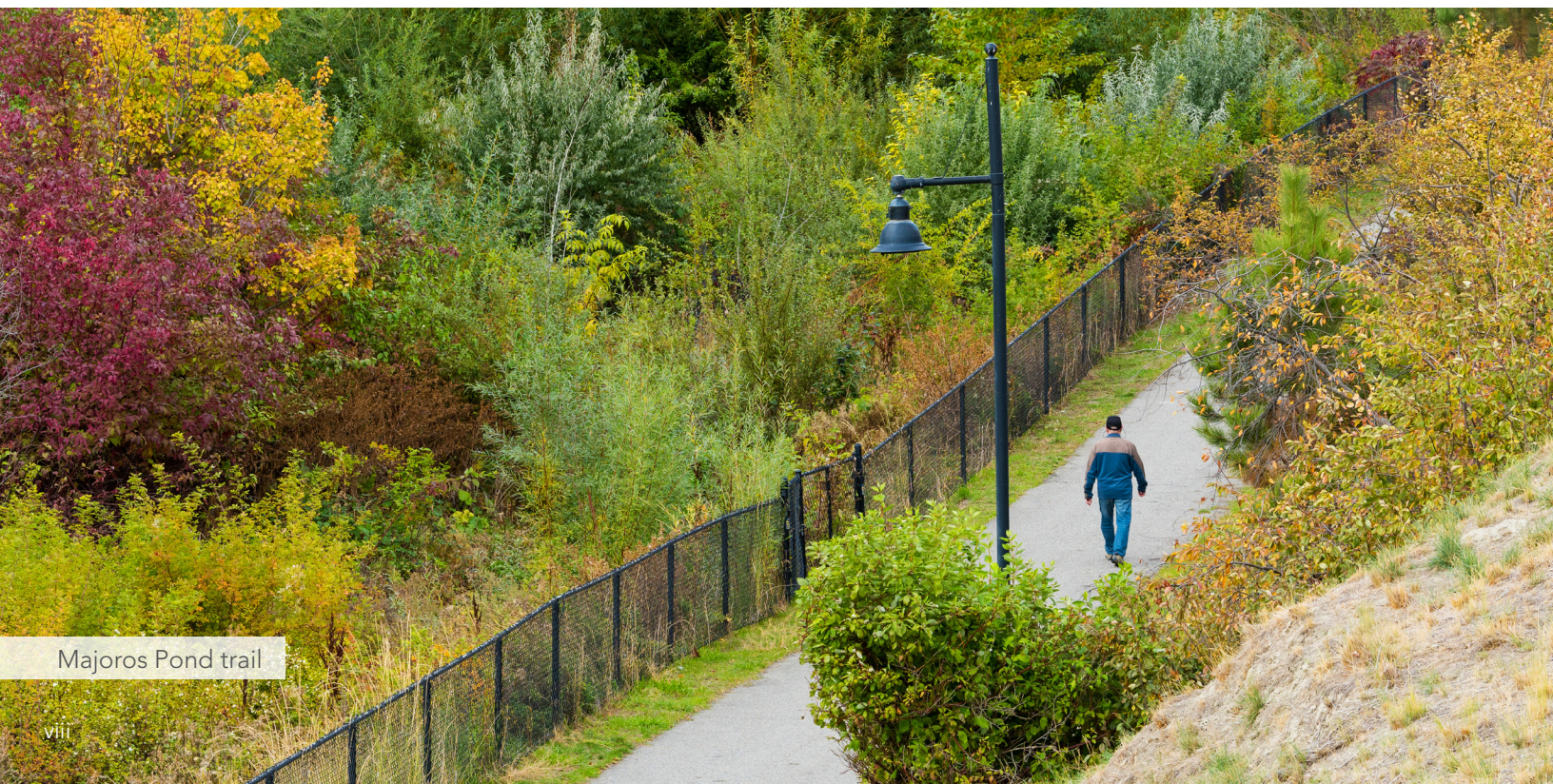
Formalize and communicate trail use guidelines and codes of conduct for recreational trails.

## **M4 Pets on Trails (p.56)**

Develop a trails network that accommodates both dog owners and non-owners and protects the environment.

## **M5 Volunteers & Organizations (p.57)**

Consider opportunities to engage organizations and individuals in support of the recreational trails network.



Majoros Pond trail

## CAPITAL PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

Larger projects addressing potential future connections that have a recreation focus.

### **C1 Goats Peak Trails Network (p.60)**

As development occurs in Goats Peak, secure a linked trails network that connects to adjacent Regional Parks and neighbourhoods.

### **C2 Waterfront Trail (p.61)**

Collaborate with active transportation and others to work towards a linked waterfront trail from Bennett Bridge to Peachland.

### **C3 Flume Trail (p.62)**

As development continues in Smith Creek, formalize the Flume Trail.

### **C4 Mount Boucherie Trails (p.63)**

Consider opportunities to support ongoing management of trails on Mount Boucherie, including those on Crown lands.

### **C5 Rock Ridge Park Trails (p.65)**

As development continues in Rose Valley, formalize trails leading from the undeveloped parkland in Rock Ridge Park.

### **C6 Other Recreational Trail Projects (p.66)**

Continue to add linkages within existing/future parks or other locations that help fill gaps and make connections in the network.

### **C7 Support for Crown Land Trail Initiatives (p.67)**

Continue to support others interested in seeking authorizations to manage trails within Crown land areas.

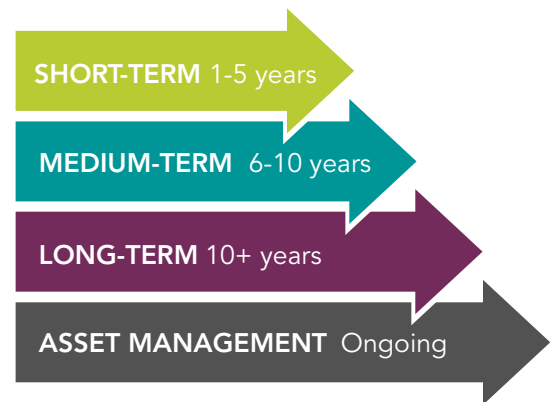
### **C8 Support for Partner Trail Initiatives (p.68)**

Continue to support partners interested in developing and managing recreational trails that benefit West Kelowna residents.

# Implementation

See Section 4.3 (p.69)

An Implementation Summary (page 69) provides a categorized summary of recommended actions for West Kelowna's recreational trails network organized by timeframe. This information is intended to support ongoing implementation of key actions that support progress towards the goals outlined in the master plan.



The *Recreational Trails Master Plan* identifies short-term actions that could be considered to advance key recommendations. Recommendations with short-term actions include:

- ▶ *P2 Asset Management & Resourcing (p.37)*
- ▶ *P4 Parks & Recreational Trails Guidelines (p.41)*
- ▶ *P8 Trail Safety & Security (p.47)*
- ▶ *M2 Trail Maintenance (p.52)*
- ▶ *M5 Volunteers & Organizations (p.57)*
- ▶ *C4 Mount Boucherie Trails (p.63)*
- ▶ *C5 Rock Ridge Park Trails (p.65)*

## FUTURE TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

Continuing to expand the network will require new connections. The following will be key mechanisms to expanding the network:

- ▶ **Developing trails on City lands** including parks, rights-of-way, or other public lands, using capital funds or other funding sources.
- ▶ **Seeking opportunities to support or partner** on key projects (e.g., with the RDCO or Province) through agreements to enhance the broader network.
- ▶ **Formalizing trails** on private lands through collaboration with private landowners or developers through acquisition, right-of-way agreements, land preservation, or other agreements.

## FUNDING STRATEGIES

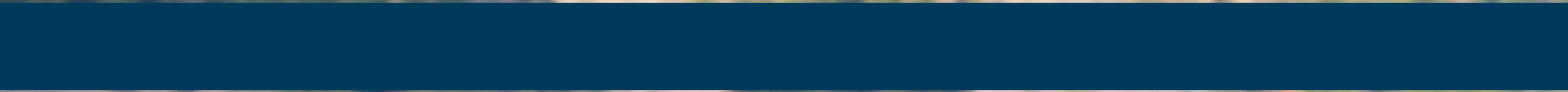
A range of potential funding sources and strategies that could support implementation of recreational trails projects include:

- ▶ Municipal Taxation
- ▶ Grant Funding
- ▶ Development Cost Charges
- ▶ Amenity Cost Charges
- ▶ Subdivision
- ▶ Parcel Tax
- ▶ Other Development-Related Funding
- ▶ Coordination Among Departments
- ▶ Corporate and Private Donations & Bequests
- ▶ Partnerships

If additional funding is available, medium-term and long-term recommended actions could be implemented sooner than shown in this Plan.



Views from Mount Boucherie



West Kelowna's nature trails

# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Plan Purpose

A Recreational Trails Master Plan (Plan) provides overall direction and guidance for planning, developing, operating, and investing in West Kelowna's recreational trails network over a long-term (10-year) horizon. This document is an update to the *2013 Recreational Trails Master Plan*.

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Recreational trails are routes that have a primary purpose for recreational use such as walking, hiking, trail running, biking, or pet exercise. These trails range from accessible pathways in urban areas to steep and challenging trails in natural environments. West Kelowna has a significant and growing recreational trails network.

This *Recreational Trails Master Plan* provides recommendations for trails on lands within the City of West Kelowna. It does not provide guidance what happens on Crown, Regional District of Central Okanagan, or private lands. The recommendations in this Plan focus on improving the quality and quantity of trails on public land owned by the City of West Kelowna and working with other government bodies and land owners to achieve trail linkages that contribute to the overall network.

Detailed design of specific trails is not the focus of this Plan; rather, it articulates strategic actions for:

- ▶ Trail planning and development;
- ▶ Trail management and operations;
- ▶ Trail improvement strategies;
- ▶ Trail budgeting and funding strategies; and
- ▶ Coordination with others to enhance the overall trails network.

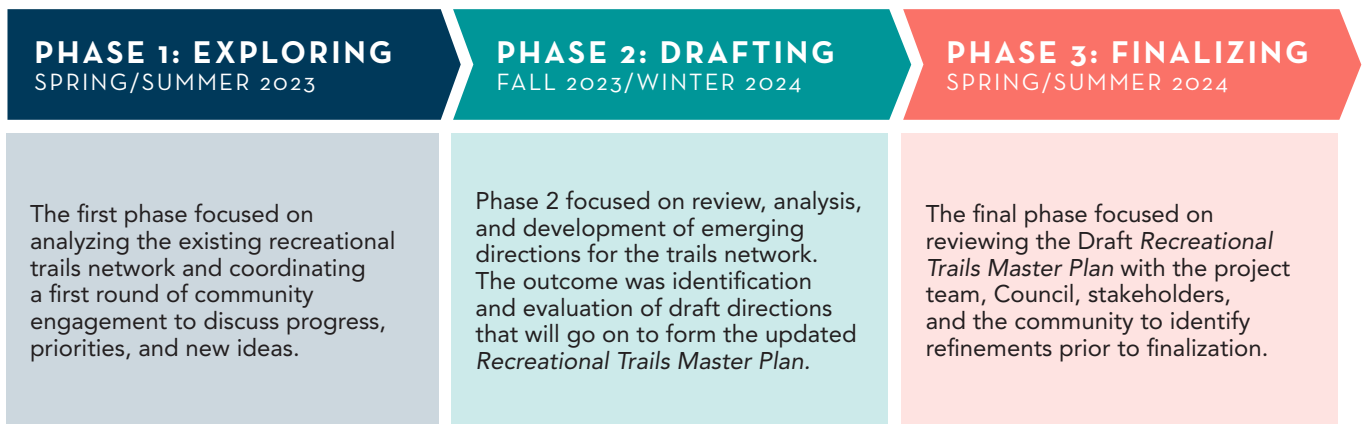
The recommendations outlined in this Plan should be reviewed and adjusted on an annual basis to explore new opportunities and prioritize investments that reflect community needs. Recommendations are intended to be considered within the broader community planning context and are subject to consideration and approval by Council.

# 1.2 Planning Process

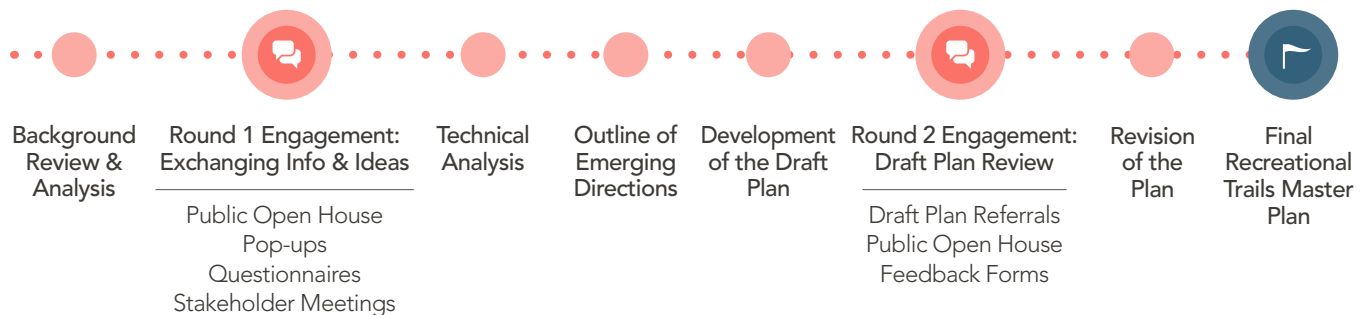
The *Recreational Trails Master Plan* update process was conducted in three phases, beginning in spring 2023 and concluding in summer 2024. Because parks and recreational trails are intrinsically linked, the process ran concurrently with the City's *Parks Master Plan* update, with a combined two-round engagement process.

Figure 1 summarizes the three phases that guided the development of the master plan and the activities completed within each phase.

Figure 1: Planning Process Diagram



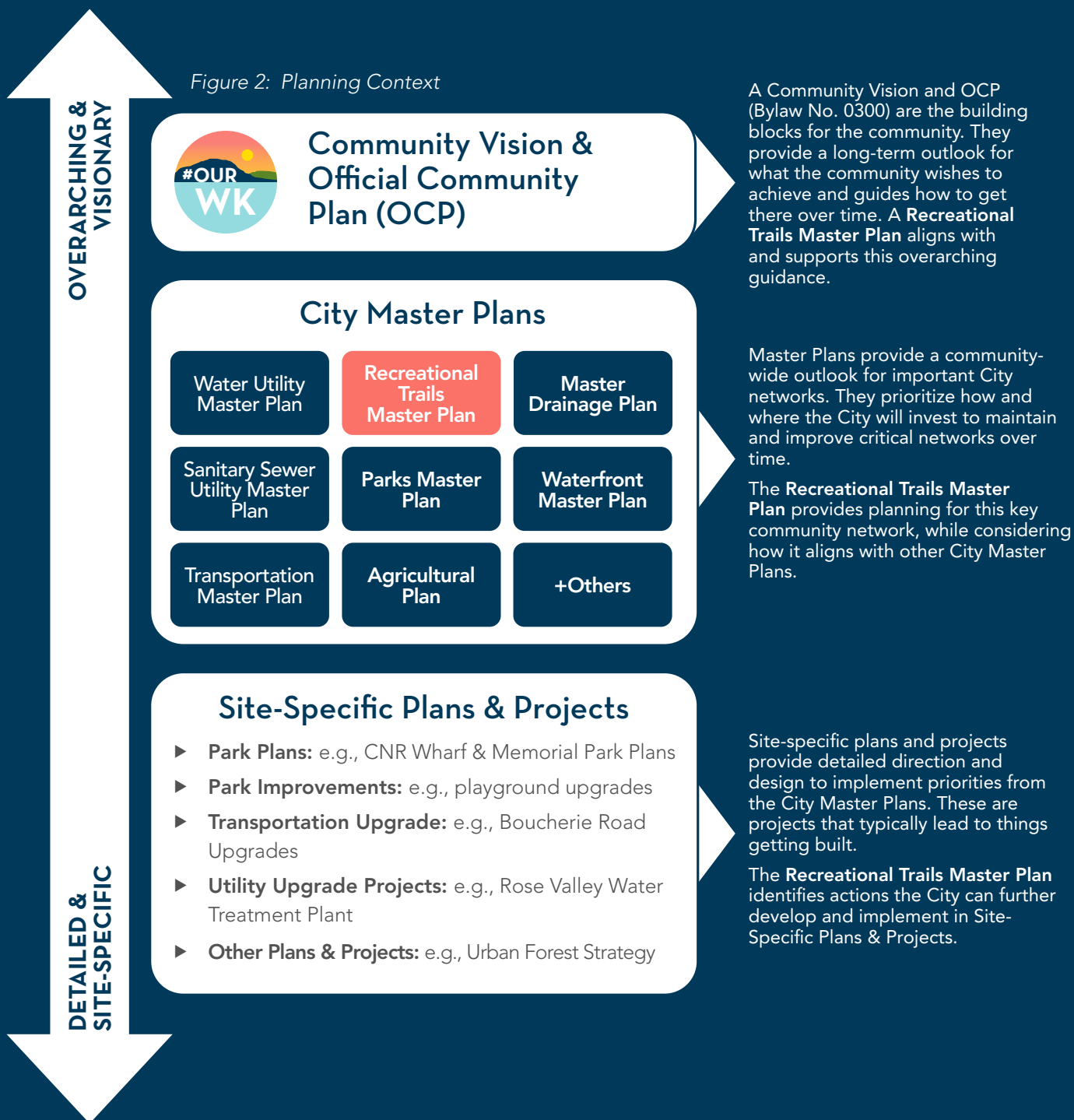
## KEY ACTIVITIES





# 1.3 Planning Context

A city is complex and interconnected. Planning helps us stay organized and focused so that progress is sustained and important projects get done. Below is a summary of how different City plans work together to accomplish community improvements.



# 1.4 Defining Recreational Trails

In the *2013 Recreational Trails Master Plan*, the City was in the early stages of defining the interconnected scope of trails. There was little distinction between recreational trails and active transportation routes. Since then, these networks have become increasingly distinct.

Recreational trails in West Kelowna, the focus of this plan, are the pathways, nature trails, and routes that provide outdoor recreational experiences. They are distinct from active transportation routes which focus on transportation to and from destinations around the City. *Figure 3* summarizes key differences between recreational trails and active transportation routes.

The community has identified a range of desirable connections for West Kelowna’s future. Many of these linkages will be adjacent to roadways and addressed in the *Transportation Master Plan* as active transportation routes. These include projects like extension of the Waterfront Route, the Boucherie Wine Trail, Shannon Lake Road upgrades, and Elliott Road upgrades. As these routes are in the *Transportation Master Plan*, they are not duplicated in the *Recreational Trails Master Plan*. However, as both plans are implemented, opportunities to enhance connectivity between the networks will be a priority.

	<b>RECREATIONAL TRAIL</b>	<b>ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ROUTE</b>
PRIMARY PURPOSE	Routes that provide fun outdoor recreation opportunities and experiences	Routes that provide safe, reliable transportation between City neighbourhoods and destinations
PLANNING & MANAGEMENT	<b>PARKS DEPARTMENT</b> Planned as part of the recreation network and guided by the <b>Recreational Trails Master Plan</b>	<b>ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT</b> Planned as part of the transportation network and guided by the <b>Transportation Master Plan</b>
SCOPE	Recreation trails network including nature trails, narrow multi-use trails, and major multi-use pathways	Transportation network including roads, sidewalks, bike lanes, mobility hubs for transit connections, and multi-use pathways
TYPICAL LOCATION	Off-street locations, primarily in parks and open spaces	Within road rights-of-way, typically parallel to the street network or between properties
TYPICAL FACILITIES & MATERIALS	Longer routes, primarily nature trails or narrow multi-use trail types, and typically soft surface materials	Varied lengths, from long routes to pedestrian access points in neighbourhoods, primarily sidewalks, bike lanes, and major multi-use trails, and typically hard surface materials
TYPICAL ACTIVITIES	Walking, hiking, mountain biking, jogging, dog-walking, nature viewing, relaxing, and other recreational pursuits	Cycling and pedestrian routes that help people choose active transportation for day-to-day travel
<b>THESE NETWORKS ARE COMPLEMENTARY.</b> Some active transportation routes, like the Gellatly Bay Recreation Corridor and the Boucherie Wine Trail offer both active transportation and recreational trail benefits.		

Figure 3: Recreational Trails vs. Active Transportation Routes

# 1.5 Benefits of Recreational Trails

Recreational trails have a strong cost-to-benefit ratio. They are low-cost to build, yet provide significant community value.



## PERSONAL BENEFITS HEALTHY, ACTIVE INDIVIDUALS

- ▶ **Low-barrier access to recreation** with opportunities for activity in each season from walking to rolling to snowshoeing to pet activity.
- ▶ **Encouragement for active living**, supporting positive health benefits.
- ▶ **Access to nature** which is known to reduce stress and enhance mental health.



## ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

- ▶ **Long-term protection of natural assets** through establishment of linked corridors and management to limit human impact on sensitive areas.
- ▶ **Support for human-powered movement** throughout the community, helping reduce reliance on automobiles.
- ▶ **Potential for educational opportunities** about the area's unique culture, history, or environment.



## ECONOMIC BENEFITS A PROSPEROUS FUTURE

- ▶ **Attractive amenities** for residents and businesses choosing a location.
- ▶ **Support for tourism opportunities** such as recreational events like trail races or local initiatives like the Westside Wine Trail.
- ▶ **Relationship-building in the community** to collectively create and care for an integrated trails network.



## SOCIAL BENEFITS AN ENGAGED COMMUNITY

- ▶ **Increase community livability** by providing access to nature and opportunities for social connection.
- ▶ **Support to regional initiatives** like a fully-linked waterfront connection that will benefit residents throughout the City and neighbouring communities.
- ▶ **Opportunities for inclusivity** by providing diverse opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to participate in recreational trails activities.

## 1.6 Community Input & Process

Input from stakeholders, interest groups, and community members is integral to the development of a Plan that reflects community needs and desires. The *Recreational Trails Master Plan* process consisted of two rounds of community engagement, each with a specific focus. This input, combined with technical analysis and input from City staff and Council, informed Plan directions.

### 1.6.1 COMMUNITY INPUT #1: EXCHANGING INFORMATION & IDEAS

#### ENGAGEMENT PERIOD

- ▶ May to June 2023

#### ENGAGEMENT GOALS

- ▶ Raise awareness and provide information about the existing recreational trails network
- ▶ Gather information about concerns, values, gaps, and ideas to reflect community needs and interests today and in the future

#### OUTCOMES

- ▶ Confirm aspirations and relevant directions from the previous plan and identify new ideas



#### OVERALL ROUND 1 PARTICIPATION:

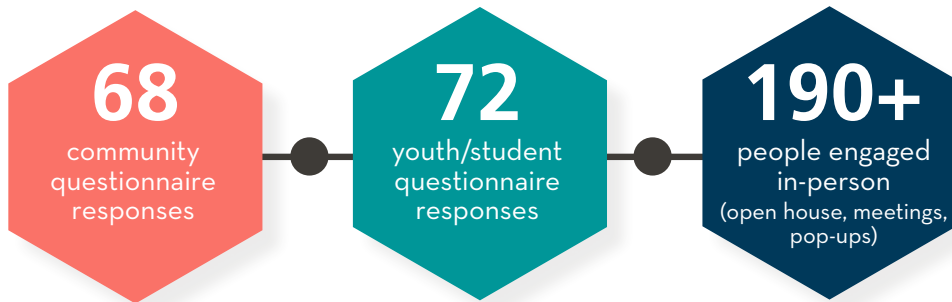
- ▶ ~300 in-person connections
- ▶ ~750 online inputs
- ▶ ~500 'engagements' on social media (likes, clicks, shares, reactions)

#### OUTREACH TOOLS

- ▶ Project web pages on the City's engagement site ([ourwk.ca](http://ourwk.ca))
- ▶ Council Presentation on May 16, 2023
- ▶ Direct outreach via email and phone to neighbouring jurisdictions, community groups, and stakeholders
- ▶ Public service announcements during the engagement period
- ▶ Social media posts on the City's channels
- ▶ Advertisement in the Summer 2023 *West Kelowna Recreation Guide*
- ▶ Email blasts distributed via the City's subscriber list
- ▶ *West Kelowna News* advertisement
- ▶ Project cards distributed at various locations
- ▶ Requests to stakeholders to share information with their membership
- ▶ Posters and signs at municipal facilities
- ▶ Engagement station at the Okanagan Regional Library Westside Branch
- ▶ Digital reader board at Highway 97 and Bartley Road intersection
- ▶ Banners at the West Kelowna Yacht Club
- ▶ Sandwich boards along the Gellatly Bay Recreation Corridor

# SNAPSHOT

## ROUND 1 ENGAGEMENT

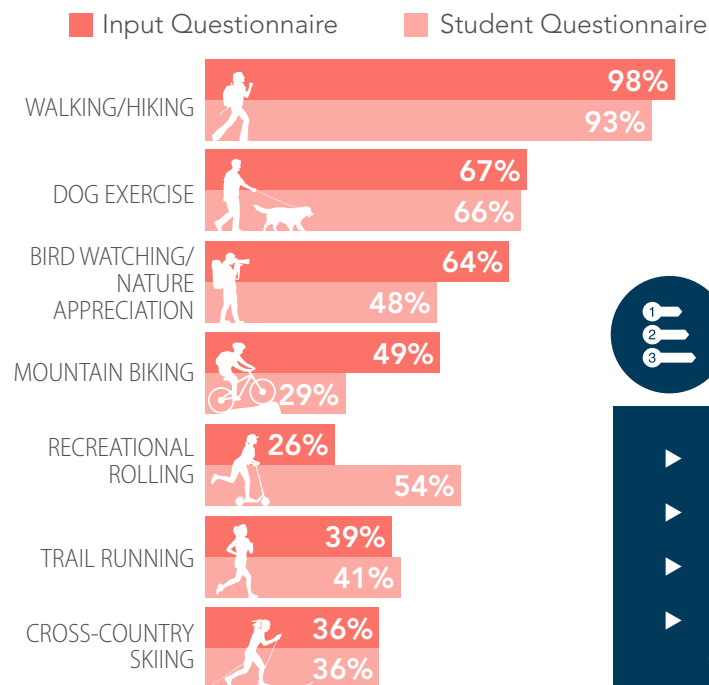


The following is a snapshot of input collected through the first round of engagement on the *Recreational Trails Master Plan*. It includes feedback on people's experiences with recreational trails and their ideas for the future.

The complete report is available on the City's website.

### RECREATIONAL TRAILS ACTIVITIES

participants reported doing each of the following activities at least a few times/year



### HOW DO WE VIEW RECREATIONAL TRAILS TODAY?



79% of respondents are feeling satisfied with the **QUALITY** of recreational trails in West Kelowna

71% of respondents are feeling satisfied with the **NUMBER** of recreational trails in West Kelowna



### KEY FUTURE PRIORITIES

for managing and growing the recreational trails network

- ▶ Expand/add new trails in urban areas
- ▶ Expand/authorize trails in backcountry areas
- ▶ Enhance maintenance of existing trails
- ▶ Establish/improve codes of conduct and trail use guidelines



### TOP TRAILS

that participants reported using

- 1 Rose Valley Trails
- 2 Trails in Kalamoior Regional Park
- 3 Mount Boucherie Trails
- 4 Gellatly Bay Recreational Corridor
- 5 Smith Creek Trails



### IDEA THEMES

about what people would like to see for the future



Existing Network Improvements



Quality and Safety



Mapping and Wayfinding



Trail Use Management/Asset Management



Natural Environment Protection



Amenities

## 1.6.2 COMMUNITY INPUT #2 : DRAFT PLAN REVIEW

### ENGAGEMENT PERIOD

- ▶ April to May 2024

### ENGAGEMENT GOALS

- ▶ Share the draft plan and encourage review and feedback on the plan goals and recommendations
- ▶ Understand public priorities for the draft recommendations (what should be done first)

### OUTCOMES

- ▶ Confirm and/or refine draft plan goals and recommendations for the final master plan prior to Council review



### OVERALL ROUND 2 PARTICIPATION:

- ▶ ~100 in-person connections
- ▶ ~26 online inputs
- ▶ Many 'engagements' on social media (likes, clicks, shares, reactions)

### OUTREACH TOOLS

- ▶ Project web page updates on the City's engagement site ([ourwk.ca](http://ourwk.ca))
- ▶ Council Presentation on April 23, 2024 to provide an overview of the Draft Master Plan and kick-off the engagement process
- ▶ Direct outreach via email and phone to neighbouring jurisdictions, community groups, and stakeholders to invite participation in the process
- ▶ Media release during the engagement period to share information about the process and identify opportunities to participate
- ▶ Social media posts on the City's Facebook, X, and Instagram accounts
- ▶ Email blasts distributed via the City's subscriber list
- ▶ Half page ad in the *West Kelowna News* to advertise the community open house
- ▶ Requests to stakeholders to share information with their membership
- ▶ Posters and signs at municipal facilities such as City Hall, Royal LePage, Jim Lind Arena, and JBMAC
- ▶ Banners at the West Kelowna Yacht Club and sandwich boards along the Gellatly Bay Recreation Corridor during the open house

# SNAPSHOT

## ROUND 2 ENGAGEMENT



The following is a snapshot of input collected through the second round of engagement on the Recreational Trails Master Plan. It includes community feedback on the draft goals, recommendations, and priorities articulated in the Draft Recreational Trails Master Plan.

The complete report is available on the City's website.

### DRAFT GOALS



The majority of participants felt all NINE Draft Goals will support a successful recreational trails system.

Top Goals participants rated as "Yes! This goal will support a successful recreational trails system"

- 79%** Establish positive relationships and pursue partnerships (Goal 9)
- 72%** Improve the quality and consistency of trail management & maintenance (Goal 4)

### COMMON THEMES ON RECOMMENDATIONS



#### Trail Planning & Development Recommendations

- ▶ Enhance and protect the recreational trails network
- ▶ Distribute recreational trails throughout West Kelowna
- ▶ Improve trail amenities
- ▶ Improve access and connectivity
- ▶ Provide more wayfinding and signage including digital options
- ▶ Provide a range of trail ratings including fully accessible trails and more challenging trails
- ▶ Improve safety on recreational trails
- ▶ Consider how to allow continued access by motorized uses into the backcountry



### DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

Top 6 draft recommendations rated the highest level of support (%)

- 1 C2 - Waterfront Trail 86%**
- 2 C7 - Support for Crown Land Initiatives 80%**
- 3 M1 - Environmental Management 80%**
- 4 C8 - Support for Partner Trail Initiatives 76%**
- 5 M2 - Trail Maintenance 74%**
- 6 C4 - Mount Boucherie Trails 64%**



#### Trail Management Recommendations

- ▶ Protect and enhance trail environments
- ▶ Improve overall trail maintenance
- ▶ Manage conflicts on trails with trail use guidelines, public education, and enforcement
- ▶ Accommodate both dog-owners and non-dog-owners' enjoyment
- ▶ Work with partners and volunteers



#### Capital Project Recommendations

- ▶ Prioritize Waterfront Trail extension
- ▶ Prioritize Flume Trail development
- ▶ Support others working to enhance the broader recreational trails network



Young cyclists on the Gellatly Bay Recreation Corridor



# 2.0 TRAILS TODAY

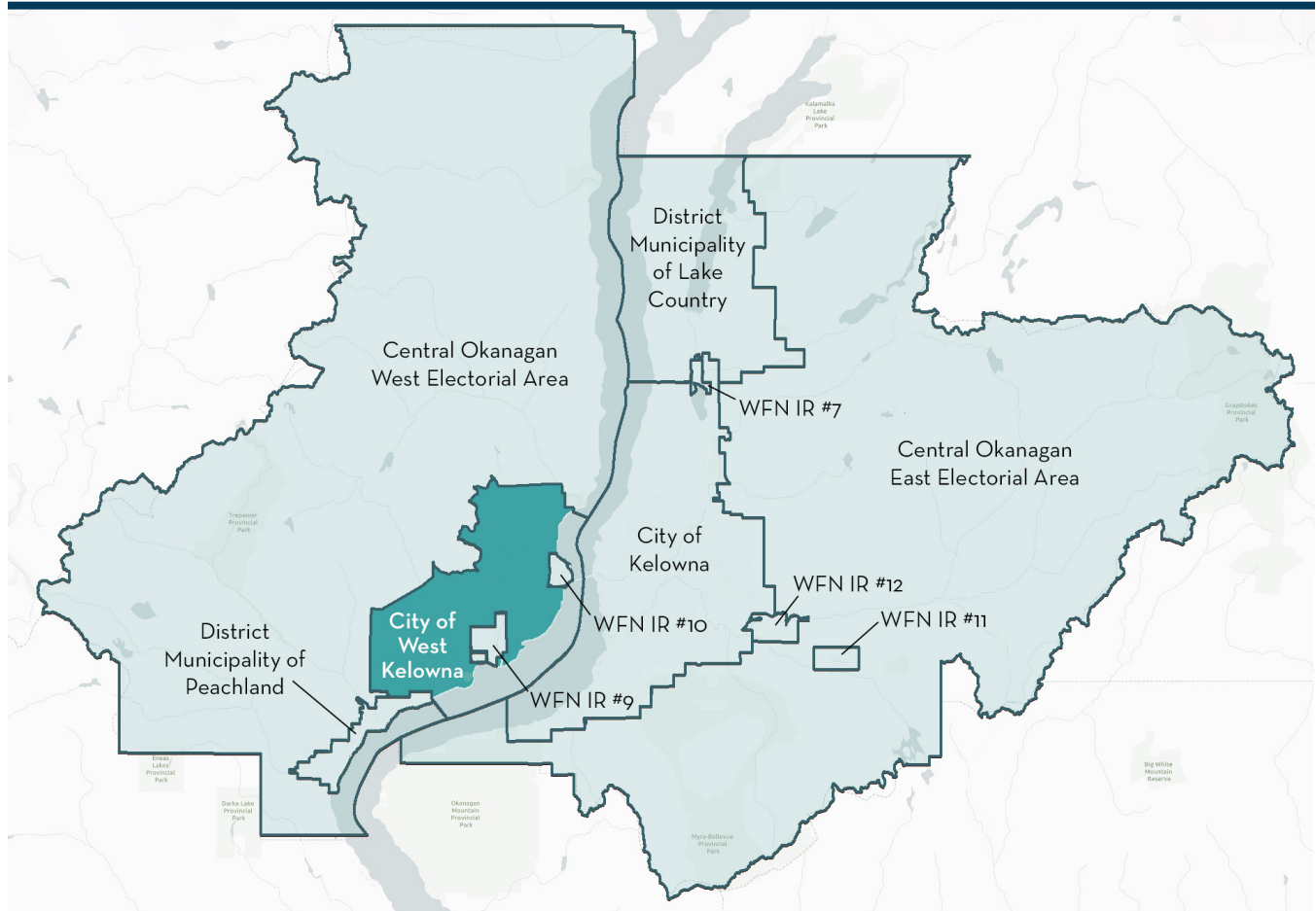
## 2.1 Planning Context

### 2.1.1 CITY OF WEST KELOWNA

The City of West Kelowna covers a large area of land on the west side of Okanagan Lake, bounded by Okanagan Lake to the east and mountains to the west. The area has a long history as an agricultural community with orchards, vineyards, and farm industry, all of which remain major components of the City's community fabric.

WEST KELOWNA CITY SNAPSHOT	
Approximate Area	<b>12,209 ha (122.1 km<sup>2</sup>)</b>
Population (2023) <sup>1</sup>	<b>39,849</b>
Average Annual Growth Rate	<b>2.1%/year between 2016-2021</b>

Figure 4: Regional Context Map



1 BC Stats, Population Estimates & Projections, 2023 (last updated July 12, 2024)

## CURRENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographic trends and community growth can influence how the City plans for future trail network development.



### COMMUNITY GROWTH

- ▶ The City of West Kelowna is a growing municipality.
- ▶ Between 2016 and 2021, the City saw a growth rate of 10.5% over 5 years,<sup>1</sup> well above BC's growth rate of 7.6% and just below the RDCO's growth rate of 11.6% for the same period.<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ As of 2023, West Kelowna is home to an estimated 39,849 residents.<sup>3</sup>
- ▶ Looking ahead, if West Kelowna grows at the current rate projected in 2023 BC Census data<sup>4</sup>, the number of residents will be approximately:
  - » 42,500 by 2026
  - » 47,000 by 2031
  - » 51,500 by 2036
  - » 55,000 by 2041
- ▶ This does not include growth in neighbouring communities who may use West Kelowna's recreational trails or tourists that visit the area.
- ▶ Community growth means more pressure will be placed on the recreational trails network, which will in turn affect the level of service and maintenance required to manage it.

1 Statistics Canada, Census Profile West Kelowna, 2021

2 Statistics Canada, Census Profile British Columbia and RDCO, 2021

3 BC Stats, Population Estimates & Projections, 2023 (last updated July 12, 2024)

4 BC Stats, Population Estimates & Projections, 2023 (last updated July 12, 2024)



### AGING POPULATION

- ▶ The last BC Census, completed in 2021, identified a median age for West Kelowna of 44 (up from 43.5 in 2016).<sup>1</sup> BC's median age in 2021 was 42.8.<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ As of the last Census 2021, West Kelowna's largest age group is those between the ages of 60-64 years, with the next three highest age groups being 55-59 years, 35-39 years, and 65-69 years, respectively.<sup>3</sup>
- ▶ West Kelowna's OCP predicts that by 2040, those aged 65 and over will make up 27% of the population and an additional 12% will be made up by those aged 55 to 64.<sup>4</sup>
- ▶ An aging population can affect how the community will plan and develop outdoor recreational opportunities.
- ▶ Technological and health improvements have made participation easier for people of all ages and abilities.
- ▶ Walking is one of the most beneficial activities for human health, shown to reduce blood pressure, improve balance and coordination, and maintain physical and mental health.
- ▶ As West Kelowna's trail system develops, providing age-friendly opportunities can help enhance quality of life.

1 Statistics Canada, Census Profile West Kelowna, 2021

2 Statistics Canada, Census Profile British Columbia, 2021

3 Statistics Canada, Census Profile West Kelowna, 2021

4 City of West Kelowna OCP, 2023

## KEY COMMUNITY FEATURES

West Kelowna has outstanding trail opportunities due to its location and physical characteristics. The area is renowned for scenic views, natural areas, and lake access. All of these features contribute to the recreational trail network experience.



### NATURAL FEATURES

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- ▶ **Okanagan Lake:** Scenic views of the 135 km-long Okanagan Lake occur throughout the recreational trails network and the existing sections of waterfront trail are cherished amenities.
- ▶ **Watercourses:** Several watercourses, including Powers Creek, Smith Creek, McDougall Creek, and Faulkner-Keefe Creek run down the hillsides, through West Kelowna, and into Okanagan Lake. Some recreational trail components align with portions of these watercourses and further opportunities may exist to increase the trails near watercourses.
- ▶ **Topography:** West Kelowna's hilly terrain is a defining feature that is beneficial for recreational trail development particularly for activities like hiking and mountain biking.
- ▶ **Natural Habitats:** The dryland ecosystems on West Kelowna's hillsides are habitat to a wide variety of flora and fauna. These areas provide opportunities for low impact trail users to experience the area's unique character and geography.
- ▶ **Forests:** Much of West Kelowna's upper elevations are forested hillside Crown lands that form the City's backdrop and also provide opportunities for walking, hiking, running, mountain biking, and more. Most of this area is Westbank First Nation Community Forest.



### LAND USE

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- ▶ **Parks:** West Kelowna has an extensive parks network, with integrated recreational trails. Aligning plans for recreational trails and parks maximizes opportunities within these complementary networks.
- ▶ **Agriculture:** Agricultural is core to West Kelowna's character. The City is known for its local vineyards, orchards, distilleries, breweries, and farms visited by tourists and locals alike. Many of the agricultural lands in the community are within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), which protects them from development, but can also limit trail connections.



### COMPLEMENTARY NETWORKS

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- ▶ **Other Networks:** The City's recreational trails network connects with active transportation routes and trails operated by others like RDCO Regional Park trails and Crown land trails. There are many opportunities to enhance overall connectivity within the complementary networks in and around West Kelowna.

## 2.1.2 REGIONAL CONTEXT

The City of West Kelowna shares borders with other communities in the region that also offer recreational trail opportunities; and residents in these communities also use West Kelowna's trail assets. A collaborative approach to inter-regional trail planning is co-beneficial.

- ▶ **Westbank First Nation Tsinstikeptum 9 and 10:** 2021 Population:10,900. West Kelowna shares borders with both Tsinstikeptum 9 and 10 which have been rapidly growing communities.<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ **City of Kelowna:** 2021 Population:144,576. Kelowna is directly across Okanagan Lake and is connected to the City of West Kelowna via Bennett Bridge. Kelowna is the largest city in the Central Okanagan, and it continues to be one of the fastest growing cities in BC.<sup>2</sup> West Kelowna's proximity to Kelowna affords access to regional opportunities that may not be available in a smaller community.
- ▶ **Central Okanagan West Electoral Area:** 2021 Population: 2,897. The Central Okanagan West encompasses the largely rural portion of the RDCO west of Okanagan Lake.<sup>3</sup>
- ▶ **District Municipality of Peachland:** 2021 Population: 5,789. Peachland shares the south border of West Kelowna and is connected to the City via Highway 97.<sup>4</sup>

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1 Statistics Canada, Census Profile Tsinstikeptum 9 & 10, 2021

2 Statistics Canada, Census Profile City of Kelowna, 2021

3 Statistics Canada, Census Profile Regional District of Central Okanagan West Electoral Area, 2021

4 Statistics Canada, 2021, Census Profile Peachland, 2021

## 2.1.3 PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

The Province of British Columbia has a *Trails Strategy for British Columbia*<sup>1</sup> that provides a "framework, principles, and guidance necessary to develop a world class trails system for BC". Municipal trails and routes are considered within the strategy.

Key actions outlined in the strategy mirror many of the directions for recreational trails in West Kelowna, including:

- ▶ Integrating environmental considerations and standards into the planning, construction, and management of trails.
- ▶ Enhancing environmental awareness and appreciation through education and interpretation.
- ▶ Collaboratively developing local, regional, and provincial trail system plans that secure opportunities for all trail users in balance with environmental, cultural, and social values.
- ▶ Engaging First Nations in collaborative trail planning.
- ▶ Engaging landowners, tenured resource users, and other stakeholders in collaborative trail planning.
- ▶ Integrating trail planning with the transportation network system.
- ▶ Using legislative tools to approve trails, and identify trail uses, in support of a comprehensive trail network.

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1 *Trails Strategy for British Columbia*, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (2021)

## 2.2 Existing Trails System

While the *Recreational Trails Master Plan* focuses on recreational trails owned and operated by the City of West Kelowna, the system is part of a connected context.

A summary of West Kelowna's current trails context is outlined in *Table 1*. See **Map A: Existing Trails Inventory (2023)** for additional details. While this Plan does not specifically address networks beyond West Kelowna recreational trails, planning is done with consideration to this larger context. Brief details about each network component are summarized in the following pages.

Table 1: Existing Trails Network Summary

	<b>NETWORK COMPONENT</b>	<b>OWNER/ OPERATOR</b>	<b>APPROXIMATE LENGTH (2023)*</b>
	<b>WEST KELOWNA RECREATIONAL TRAILS</b>	City of West Kelowna	32.7 km
	<b>WEST KELOWNA ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ROUTES</b>	City of West Kelowna	Unknown
	<b>WEST KELOWNA SIDEWALKS</b>	City of West Kelowna	94.1 km
	<b>RDCO REGIONAL PARK TRAILS (FORMAL)</b>	Regional District of Central Okanagan	30.0 km
	<b>AUTHORIZED CROWN LAND TRAILS</b>	Province of BC/ West Kelowna Trails Crew Society	189.8 km
	<b>NEIGHBOURING NETWORKS</b>	Westbank First Nation	30.1 km
	<b>INFORMAL ROUTES</b>	No formal designation	n/a

\* Lengths are based on current GIS data available at the time of planning. Information should be considered approximate.

## 2.2.1 WEST KELOWNA RECREATIONAL TRAILS

The 2013 *Recreational Trails Master Plan* identified approximately **21.4 km** of existing recreational trails in West Kelowna. Current trails data indicates recreational trails provision has increased significantly to **32.7 km** in 2023. The majority of the City's recreational trails have been acquired through development projects or have been built by the City in existing parks. *Table 2* outlines notable trail updates and expansion projects in the past decade.

Table 2: Completed Trail Improvements Since 2013

TRAIL	IMPROVEMENTS	YEAR	TRAIL	IMPROVEMENTS	YEAR
Astoria Park	▪ New trail	2022	Mule Deer Park	▪ New trail	2023
Casa Rio Waterfront Park	▪ Trail upgrades	2018	Rose Ridge Park	▪ New trail	2014
Carate Park	▪ New trail	2021	Rose Valley Trails Parking/ Trailhead	▪ New parking lot ▪ Water bottle and dog fill station ▪ Bike tool station	2017
Eain Lamont	▪ Trail upgrades	2013/ 2019	Sandstone Park	▪ New trails	2014
Rita's Trail	▪ Trail upgrades ▪ New staircase	2017	Shannon Springs Park	▪ Trail improvements	2023
Glen Canyon Park (City portion)	▪ Acquisition to improve regional trail connection	2014	Smith Creek Park	▪ Trail extension	2014
Gellatly Bay Recreation Corridor	▪ Trail upgrades	2013	Sunnyside Park	▪ New waterfront access trail	2015
Horizon Park	▪ Trail upgrades ▪ New staircase	2020	Tallus Greenway	▪ Trail upgrades ▪ Trail extension ▪ New fencing	2014 2019 2021
Majoros Park	▪ Trail repair	2020	Wild Horse Park	▪ New trail development	2022
Mclver Park	▪ Trail upgrade	2019	Rotary Trails	▪ Bridge upgrade ▪ Flood restoration	2019
Memorial Park	▪ Amphitheatre access trail	2016	Unnamed Park on Cabernet Way	▪ New trailhead to Mount Boucherie	2023
Moonbeam Park	▪ Trail upgrade ▪ New staircase	2020	Various	▪ New Signage	
Mount Boucherie Park	▪ Rush Trail construction ▪ Trailhead/parking improvements ▪ Rush Trail entrance rerouting and improvements ▪ Restoration project	2015 2016 2018 2023			

## 2.2.2 WEST KELOWNA ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ROUTES

In 2024, the City will complete an updated *Transportation Master Plan* that will set directions for walking, cycling, driving, and transit in the City. The plan identifies a range of active transportation projects that could link with the recreational trails network, such as:

- ▶ Anders Road sidewalks and bike lanes
- ▶ Shannon Lake Road sidewalks and bike lanes
- ▶ Gellatly Corridor extension
- ▶ Elliot Road sidewalks and bike lanes
- ▶ Wine Trail extension
- ▶ Westside Trail multi-use pathway connection
- ▶ Glenrosa neighbourhood sidewalks and bike lanes
- ▶ Westbank Centre sidewalks and bike lanes
- ▶ Boucherie Centre sidewalks and bike lanes
- ▶ Lakeview Heights neighbourhood sidewalks and bike lanes
- ▶ Rose Valley neighbourhood sidewalks and bike lanes
- ▶ Glencoe Road sidewalks and bike lanes
- ▶ Smith Creek Road sidewalks and bike lanes



## 2.2.3 REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN TRAILS

The RDCO has eight regional parks in West Kelowna, including: Kalamoior, Rose Valley, Shannon Lake, Glen Canyon, Gellatly Heritage, Gellatly Nut Farm, Raymer Bay, and Goats Peak Regional Parks. All regional parks have trails, which in many cases, connect into the City's trails network.

The RDCO continues to plan for and manage the regional parks network through:

- ▶ The *Official Regional Parks Plan (ORPP)*.
- ▶ Management Plans for key parks including for Kalamoior (updated in 2023) and Goats Peak (2016).
- ▶ Trails Plans like the Rose Valley Regional Park Trails Master Plan (on hold after the 2023 McDougall Creek Fire).
- ▶ Other initiatives like the *Regional Parks and Greenways Plan (2008 to 2020)*.

Continuing to collaborate with the RDCO through planning initiatives will identify opportunities that bring benefits to the collective trails network.



## 2.2.4 TRAILS ON CROWN LAND

There are many trails within the hillside Crown lands to the north and west of West Kelowna. Most of these trails have been informally developed over the years by recreation enthusiasts. The City does not maintain nor manage these trails.

Since 2013, the City has supported processes to authorize two key networks:

- ▶ **Smith Creek Trails Recreation Area** is a popular network of mountain biking and hiking trails accessed from Smith Creek Road.
- ▶ **Rose Valley Trails Recreation Area** includes trails west of Rose Valley Regional Park around Rose Valley Lake. The network is accessed from Rose Valley Regional Park or the City trailhead on Rosewood Drive. Trails were impacted by the 2023 McDougall Creek Fire.

Both of these networks are managed by the West Kelowna Trails Crew Society, a volunteer non-profit organization. The City does not have an active role in management.

In addition to authorized networks, there are many informal, unmaintained trails throughout the Crown lands, with some of the most popular including McDougall Rim, Carrot Mountain, Powers Creek, Drought Mountain, and Mount Boucherie (outside the City-owned park).

Organizations can apply to the Province for authorization to construct and maintain trails on Crown land under the *Forest and Ranges Practices Act (Section 57)*. An authorized trail has legal status meaning it is mapped and managed, which can support trail upgrades, help manage use and impacts, and reduce risk of environmental impacts or wildfire. However, authorization also requires a commitment to ongoing management and needs to be carefully considered.

## 2.2.5 WESTBANK FIRST NATION

As close neighbours, Westbank First Nation and West Kelowna share common goals to enhance connectivity. Westbank First Nation's *Parks and Trails Master Plan (2015)* supports collaboration with neighbouring communities to enhance connectivity and align trail design standards to support seamless connectivity. For example, WFN's multi-use path along Boucherie Road was built to match the Gellatly Bay Recreation Corridor trail standard. WFN's *Parks and Trails Master Plan* identifies trail linkages for the community, and potential exists for West Kelowna recreational trails to support links between the communities.

Westbank First Nation Community Forest tenure is in place through much of the Crown land in the north and west parts of the community. Westbank First Nation is a referral agency for any proposals in these areas, and forestry activities may be managed to protect established recreation as part of their forest licence.

## 2.2.6 TRAILS ON PRIVATE LANDS

Throughout the City there are incidences of informal trails over private lands (i.e., not park or Crown land). In some cases, agricultural landowners informally allow local residents to cross or link through properties. These connections are typically not formal nor documented. In other cases, trail activities occur in undeveloped parts of private properties where future development is planned, for example, Goats Peak and Smith Creek. As development continues in these areas, it will be important that trails networks are formalized and key connections are protected. There are also incidences of trespass (i.e., where informal trails are created along desire lines) which can be a concern for both property owners and the City.



## 2.3 Trails Network Observations

The planning process highlighted several challenges in the recreational trails network.

- ▶ **Limited Resources:** Lack of dedicated resources means recreational trails works are typically addressed on an issue basis, without proactive management (see sidebar).
- ▶ **Barriers to Connectivity:** Network gaps exist due to past development patterns, jurisdictional boundaries, private land holdings, agricultural uses, and other barriers.
- ▶ **Increasing Trail Use:** More people enjoying recreational trails increases risk of damage or conflict, requiring more extensive management and use guidelines.
- ▶ **Unauthorized Routes:** Ongoing, informal use of unauthorized trails can pose concerns around trespass and liability.
- ▶ **Trail Safety:** Lack of consistent monitoring and maintenance can mean that hazards or deterioration are not addressed in a proactive manner.
- ▶ **Lack of Information:** Lack of up-to-date information such as maps, trail ratings, and condition information can limit user enjoyment of the network.
- ▶ **Climate Change:** More intense winter storms and prolonged summer drought can affect trail conditions, while human use in natural areas can increase risk of events like wildfire.
- ▶ **Environmental Management:** Increased use, unauthorized trail building, off-leash dog activity, and other practices can affect sensitive natural environments.
- ▶ **Missed Opportunities:** As development proceeds, opportunities to secure linkages can be missed, leaving barriers or gaps in the network.

### KEY ISSUE: LIMITED RESOURCES

Of the observations, the most significant is resource limitations. The City currently does not have dedicated resources for managing recreational trails. A certain amount of necessary maintenance on trails is completed as part of regular park maintenance where trails are present upon request – for example, litter removal and hazard tree management. Initiatives such as wildfire mitigation have also provided opportunities for trail upgrades.

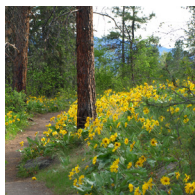
The Gellatly Bay Recreation Corridor is the only recreational trail that receives regular surface maintenance. Specific projects, such as updates to Rush Trail in Mount Boucherie Park, have also been completed to address issues when required and when resources permit.

There is currently no funding for routine maintenance, life-cycle management, wayfinding signage and information, or other common recreational trails costs. Recreational trail use will continue to increase as the community grows. Adequate resourcing is necessary to maintain safe trails, reduce deterioration, and provide high quality assets for the community over the long-term.

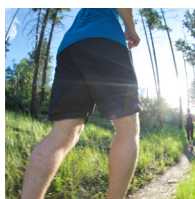
## 2.4 Key Trends

Trends display the tendencies and preferences of society as it evolves. Several trends may influence recreational trails in West Kelowna.

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**CLIMATE CHANGE:** Recreational trails often occur within areas most vulnerable to climate change impacts – forested hillsides, shorelines, and watercourses. Planning and developing recreational trails will require consideration of potential risks and opportunities to be resilient to impacts.



**ACTIVE OUTDOOR LIFESTYLES:** Recreation trends suggest people are increasingly looking for independent, unscheduled outdoor activities like walking, pet exercise, hiking, rolling, mountain biking, trail running, and cross-country skiing. People often seek recreational trails that support these activities when selecting a community to call home.



**TOURISM GROWTH:** The Okanagan continues to be known as a destination for tourism, with West Kelowna becoming an increasingly popular destination for visitors. Trails networks often play an important role in tourism, supporting opportunities for exploration, activity, and events.



**MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION:** As West Kelowna shifts from auto-dependency to a multi-modal transportation network, active transportation routes will increase pedestrian and cyclist connectivity. As the active transportation network grows, there will be opportunities for linked recreational trails to support an interconnected network.



**A GROWING COMMUNITY:** As rapid growth continues in West Kelowna, there can be impacts to informal trails and access into recreational networks. Planning ahead to identify and secure critical routes supports ongoing connectivity through neighbourhoods, even as an area changes.



**INCLUSIVITY:** Communities across Canada are becoming increasingly diverse, with people of all ages, needs, abilities, and interests seeking recreational opportunity. It will be important to consider how there can be inclusive and accessible experiences on recreational trails, especially in the most popular areas.



**TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES:** Online resources and digital tools are advancing at an unprecedented rate, providing new opportunities for wayfinding, communications, and experiences. In addition, mobility technology like e-bikes and adaptive equipment are expanding the audiences who can enjoy recreational trails.



Mount Boucherie viewpoint



Mount Boucherie trails

# 3.0 FRAMEWORK FOR THE FUTURE

## 3.1 Framework for the Future

The *Recreational Trails Master Plan* is guided by...

### COUNCIL'S 2022-2026 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

*A progressive local government, committed to engaging the community to make West Kelowna a welcoming, safe, and inclusive place, resilient in the face of challenges, and rich with opportunity for all ages.*

Nine goals are updated from the 2013 *Recreational Trails Master Plan*, to reflect community priorities and provide guidance to recreational trail planning, development, and management.



**GOAL 1:** Provide a publicly-accessible, connected recreational trails system with links to all parts of the community.



**GOAL 2:** Establish the trails system as a destination for residents and visitors, with natural attractions and varied, year-round recreation opportunities.



**GOAL 3:** Provide opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, and lifestyles to experience trails in West Kelowna safely, securely, and comfortably.



**GOAL 4:** Improve the quality and consistency of trail management and maintenance, with sufficient resources to effectively maintain trails assets.



**GOAL 5:** Provide clear and accessible information about recreational trails to support wayfinding and code of conduct.



**GOAL 6:** Balance protection of natural areas and building climate resiliency with public access and connectivity.



**GOAL 7:** Take steps to improve responsible trails use and reduce conflicts among trail users.



**GOAL 8:** Encourage and support the engagement and involvement of user groups and partners in trail stewardship.



**GOAL 9:** Establish positive relationships and pursue partnerships with trail users, volunteers, neighbouring municipalities, RDCO, WFN, the Province, and the development community.

## 3.2 Recreational Trail Types

Providing different trail types within the recreational trails network provides a range of experiences that align with location and conditions.

West Kelowna's existing (2023) recreational trails network spans over 32 km. This is separate from active transportation routes and trails managed by others including RDCO and Crown land trails (see *Section 2.2 Existing Trails System*).

There are three types of recreational trails typical to the network, based on location, type of use, and amount of use:

- ▶ Major Multi-use Trails
- ▶ Narrow Multi-use Trails
- ▶ Nature Trails

The intent of defining recreational trail types is to provide consistent guidelines and standards for trail development and maintenance for public trails.

Trail types and design standards for each trail type are summarized on the following pages.

The standards for these trail types apply to new trail construction and, where feasible, when existing trails, sections of trails, or trail features are upgraded or repaired. It is important to note that it is not financially realistic to upgrade all trails at once, so trails will typically be upgraded over time as resources and opportunity become available.



Major Multi-use Trail



Narrow Multi-use Trail



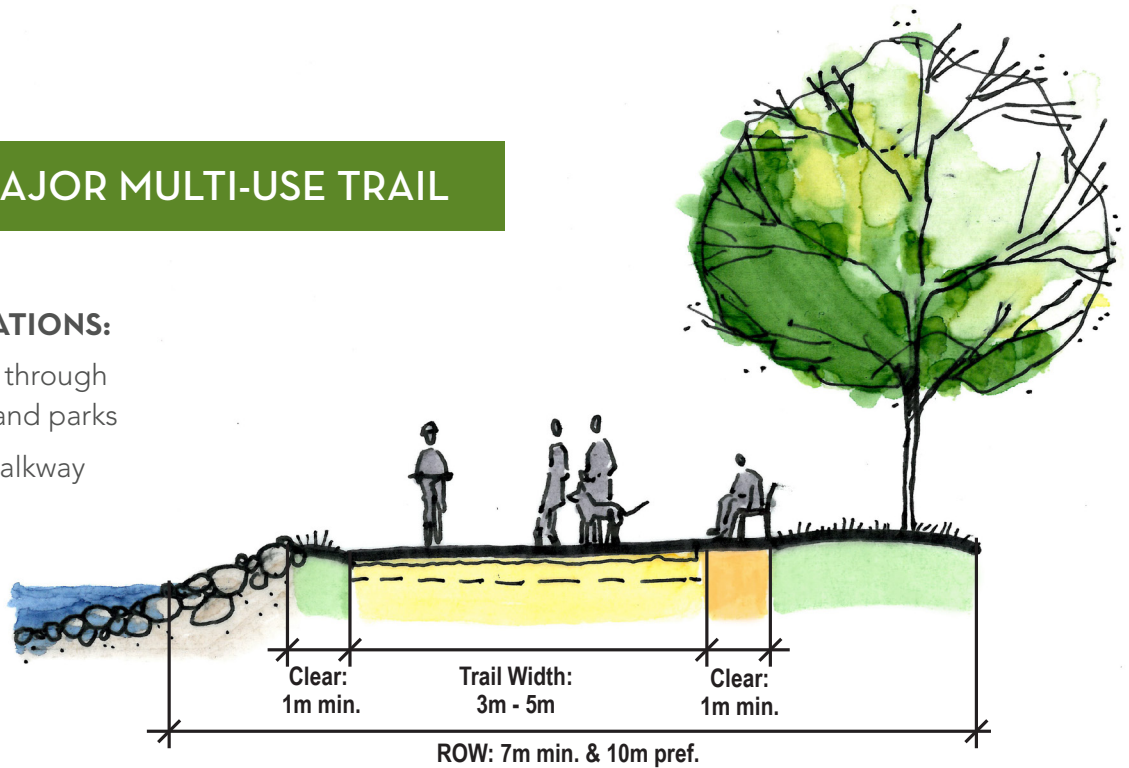
Nature Trail



## MAJOR MULTI-USE TRAIL

### TYPICAL LOCATIONS:

- ▶ Major routes through urban areas and parks
- ▶ Waterfront walkway



### LEVEL OF USE:

- ▶ High

### TYPES OF USE:

- ▶ Non-motorized multi-use such as walking, jogging, cycling, in-line skating (where possible), scooters
- ▶ Meets minimum standards for wheelchairs, strollers
- ▶ Allows maintenance vehicle access

### GUIDANCE:

- ▶ City Works & Services Bylaw
- ▶ IMBA Trail Standards as applicable

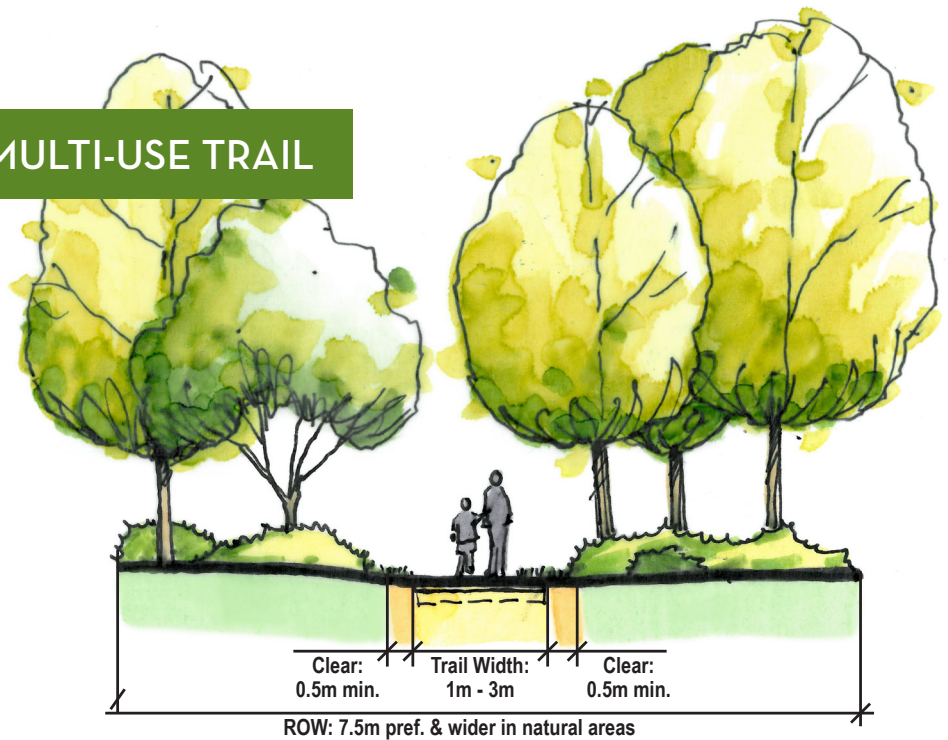
CRITERIA	DESIGN STANDARDS												
Trail Width	▪ 3 to 5 metres												
Unobstructed	▪ 1 metre min. on each side of trail												
Clear Width	▪ 2.5 metres or more on each side of trail preferred												
Clear Height	▪ 2.4 to 3.0 metres												
Sightlines	▪ Good visibility for 20 metres												
Right-of-way (ROW) Width	▪ 7 metres min., 10 metres preferred ▪ Or within road right-of-way												
Surfacing	▪ Paved (e.g., asphalt or concrete) ▪ Well-compacted aggregate (e.g., decomposed granite or recycled asphalt grindings)												
Base	▪ Solid, well-draining granular base ▪ 150 mm depth min.												
Grade	▪ 0-3% average sustained grade ▪ Up to 8% for short sections												
Accessibility	▪ Enhanced accessibility for most ages and abilities												
Infrastructure	<table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>Trail</th> <th>Trailhead</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>▪ Benches</td> <td>▪ Signs, Kiosks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>▪ Viewpoints</td> <td>▪ Waste/Recycling</td> </tr> <tr> <td>▪ Waste/Recycling</td> <td>▪ Landscape treatment</td> </tr> <tr> <td>▪ Lighting (as needed)</td> <td>▪ Bollards</td> </tr> <tr> <td>▪ Bridge/Boardwalk (sensitive areas)</td> <td>▪ Washrooms (high-use areas)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Trail	Trailhead	▪ Benches	▪ Signs, Kiosks	▪ Viewpoints	▪ Waste/Recycling	▪ Waste/Recycling	▪ Landscape treatment	▪ Lighting (as needed)	▪ Bollards	▪ Bridge/Boardwalk (sensitive areas)	▪ Washrooms (high-use areas)
	Trail	Trailhead											
▪ Benches	▪ Signs, Kiosks												
▪ Viewpoints	▪ Waste/Recycling												
▪ Waste/Recycling	▪ Landscape treatment												
▪ Lighting (as needed)	▪ Bollards												
▪ Bridge/Boardwalk (sensitive areas)	▪ Washrooms (high-use areas)												
Maintenance	▪ High - Snow clearing, sweeping, routine repairs												
Example	▪ Gellatly Bay Recreation Corridor												
Notes	▪ Trail and ROW Widths may vary based on ground conditions and property constraints. Preferred widths to be provided where there are no constraints.												



## NARROW MULTI-USE TRAIL

### TYPICAL LOCATIONS:

- ▶ Community or neighbourhood connectors
- ▶ Major creek corridors
- ▶ Major routes through natural areas
- ▶ Irrigation flumes



### LEVEL OF USE:

- ▶ Moderate

### TYPES OF USE:

- ▶ Non-motorized multi-use such as walking, jogging, hiking, cycling
- ▶ Wheelchairs, scooters, and strollers (where possible)
- ▶ Equestrian (where designated)

### GUIDANCE:

- ▶ City Works & Services Bylaw
- ▶ IMBA Trail Standards as applicable

CRITERIA	DESIGN STANDARDS	
Trail Width	▪ 1 to 3 metres	
Unobstructed Clear Width	▪ 0.5 metre min. on each side of trail	
Clear Height	▪ Total 1.5 meter min. for maintenance service access	
Sightlines	▪ 2.4 metres	
Right-of-way (ROW) Width	▪ Good visibility for 10 metres	
Surfacing	▪ 7.5 metres preferred	
	▪ Wider in natural areas to maintain character	
Base	▪ Compacted aggregate (e.g., gravel)	
	▪ Asphalt (urban or neighbourhood connectors) or former road bed	
Grade	▪ Granular base	
	▪ 0-3% average sustained grade	
Accessibility	▪ Up to 8% for short sections	
	▪ Most ages and abilities where terrain permits	
Infrastructure	<b>Trail</b>	
	▪ Viewpoints	<b>Trailhead</b>
	▪ Boardwalks (sensitive areas)	▪ Signs (directional, instructional, interpretive)
Maintenance		▪ Site-specific landscaping
		▪ Waste/Recycling
	▪ Low to Moderate (depending on location)	
Example	▪ Urban/Residential Trails (paved): snow clearing, sweeping, routine repairs	
	▪ Park/Rural Trails (unpaved): resurfacing, grading	
Notes	▪ Pinot Gris Park Walkway	
	▪ This trail standard will not be constructed within road right-of-ways. Road cross-section standards will be followed in those situations.	

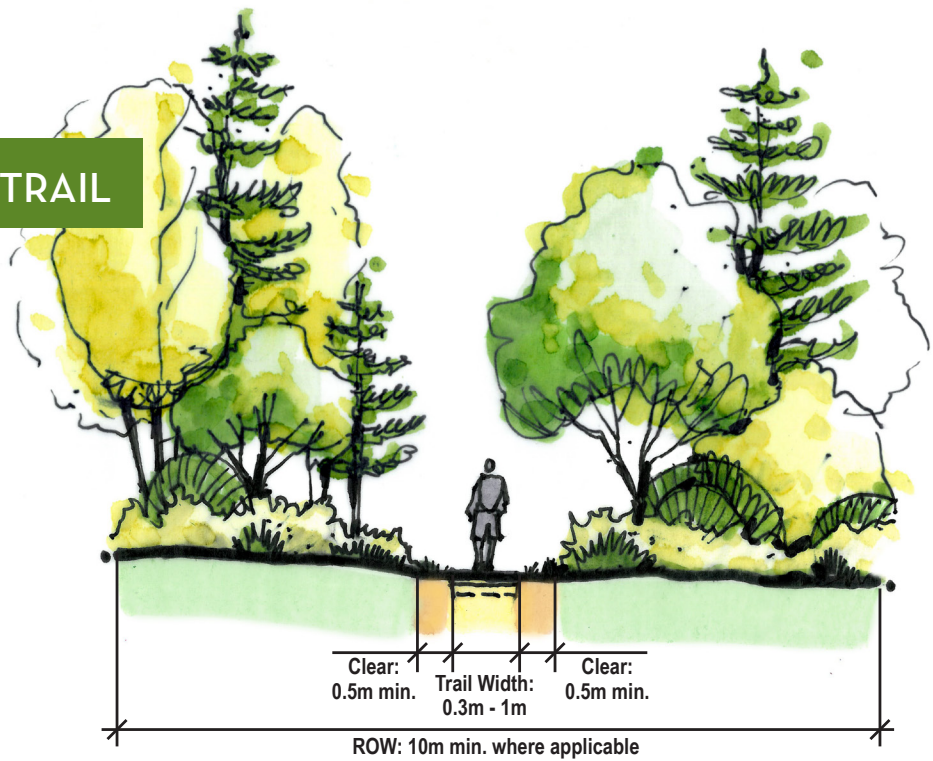




## NATURE TRAIL

### TYPICAL LOCATIONS:

- ▶ Natural areas
- ▶ Minor creek corridors
- ▶ Hillsides



### LEVEL OF USE:

- ▶ Low

### TYPES OF USE:

- ▶ Non-motorized multi-use such as walking, trail running, hiking, mountain biking, and other low impact recreation

### GUIDANCE:

- ▶ City Works & Services Bylaw
- ▶ IMBA Trail Standards as applicable

CRITERIA	DESIGN STANDARDS	
Trail Width	▪ 0.3 to 1 metre	
Unobstructed	▪ 0.5 metre min. on each side of trail	
Clear Width	▪ Total 1.5 meter min. for maintenance service access	
Clear Height	▪ 2.4 metres	
Sightlines	▪ As safety permits	
Right-of-way	▪ n/a in parks or Crown land areas	
Width	▪ 10 metres min. in urban areas for natural setting	
Surfacing	▪ Compacted native soil	
	▪ Aggregate or mulch where needed	
Base	▪ Native material	
Grade	▪ 0-15% average sustained grade	
	▪ Short sections of steeper grade where terrain requires	
Accessibility	▪ Typically for physically-able; limited access for some	
Infrastructure	<b>Trail</b>	<b>Trailhead</b>
	▪ Viewpoints	▪ Waste/Recycling
	▪ Stairs (as needed)	▪ Signs (directional, instructional, interpretive)
Additional Features	<b>Cut and Fill Slopes</b>	<b>Climbing Turns</b>
	▪ Fencing (as needed)	▪ Switchback when slope is >10%
	▪ Bench cut trails (on slopes) by grade	▪ Rolling crown switchback preferred to allow drainage
Maintenance	▪ Drainage may be required to divert runoff/limit erosion	
Maintenance	▪ Low; occasional repair to address erosion/vegetation	
Example	▪ Mount Boucherie Park Trails	
Notes	▪ Trail and ROW Widths may vary based on ground conditions and property constraints. Preferred widths to be provided where there are no constraints.	

### 3.3 Trail Rating System

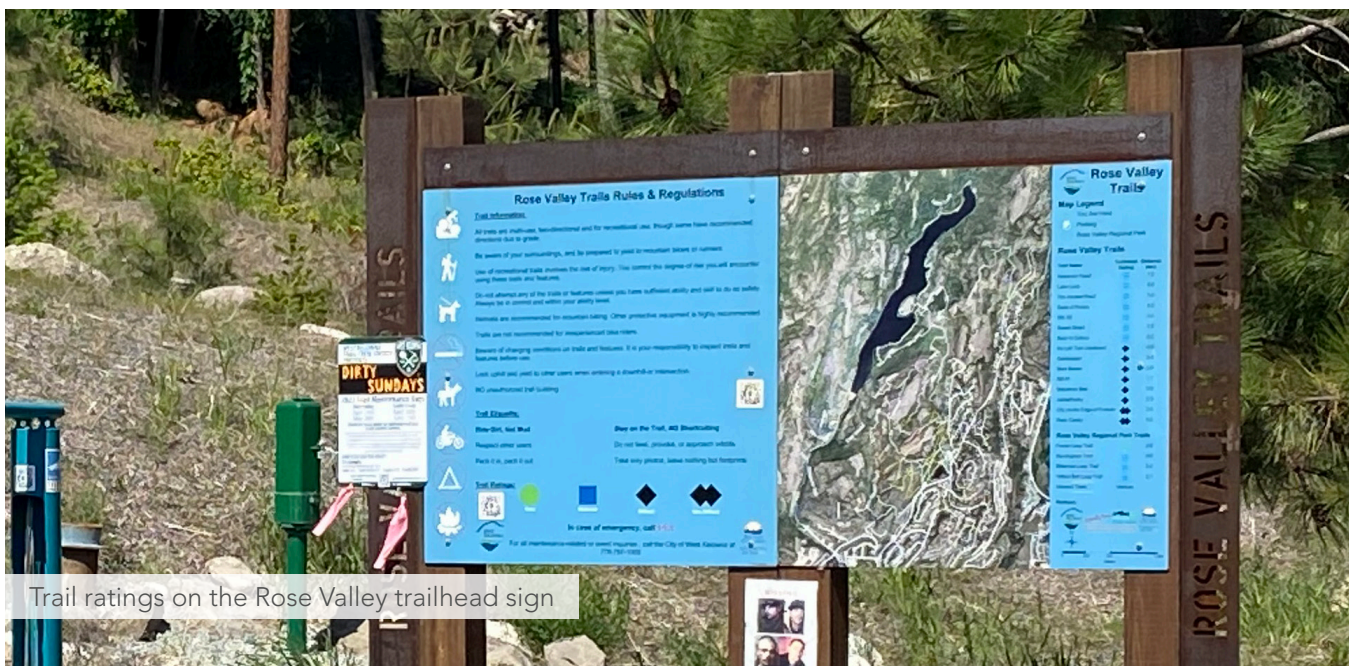
A trail rating system is a method to categorize the difficulty of trails based on factors such as width, surface, grade, obstacles, or other technical features. Trail ratings help users select appropriate trails based on their abilities and interests.

By informing visitors what trail conditions to expect, trail ratings reduce the likelihood of injury and increase the enjoyment and experience of the user. Therefore, ratings are an important tool in managing risk.

Trail ratings typically consider width, slopes, barriers, and conditions that make a trail easier or more difficult to navigate. For example, a narrow, steep, rocky trail will be more challenging than a wide, flat, and paved trail.









A recreational trails network typically features routes with different ratings to meet the broad needs of community members with varied abilities and interests.

Ideally, trail ratings are consistent across West Kelowna so that the experience on a trail in one park is similar to a trail with the same rating in another park. The 2013 *Recreational Trails Master Plan* proposed a simple trails rating system for recreational trails. It is intended to be compatible with the RDCO Regional Parks trails ratings, with a simple three-level system as summarized in *Table 3*. Symbology and criteria for the rating system align with other common rating systems including the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) rating system and International Trail Marking System for ski areas, and other recreational trails rating systems. For trails that are primarily used for mountain biking, it is recommended that the IMBA standards be followed.



Trail ratings on the Rose Valley trailhead sign

Table 3: Recreational Trails Rating System

CRITERIA		TRAIL RATING SYSTEM		
Trail Rating Symbol				
Trail Rating Difficulty	Easy	Moderate	Difficult	
Related Recreational Trail Types (see Section 3.2)	 Major Multi-Use Trail	 Narrow Multi-Use Trail	 Nature Trail	
	 Narrow Multi-Use Trail	 Nature Trail		
Anticipated User Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walkers/runners</li> <li>People with mobility limitations</li> <li>Beginner/recreational cyclists</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walkers/runners</li> <li>Hikers</li> <li>Intermediate cyclists</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advanced hikers</li> <li>Advanced cyclists</li> <li>High level of fitness required</li> </ul>	
Trail Descriptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wide, firm surface</li> <li>Gentle slopes</li> <li>No obstacles within the trail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate slopes</li> <li>No significant obstacles within the trail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steep or variable slopes</li> <li>Can include long steep climbs and descents</li> <li>Loose trail surfaces</li> <li>Potential obstacles</li> </ul>	
Trail Surface	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Firm and stable</li> <li>Paving or compacted aggregates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mostly stable</li> <li>Compacted aggregates or loose gravel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Variable surface of native material</li> <li>Can include roots and rocks</li> </ul>	
Minimum Constructed Width	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.0 metres (Major Multi-Use Trail)</li> <li>1.0 metres (Narrow Multi-Use Trail)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.0 metres (Narrow Multi-Use Trail)</li> <li>0.5 metres (Nature Trail)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0.3 metres (Nature Trail)</li> </ul>	
Maximum Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0-3% average sustained grade</li> <li>Up to 8% for short sections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0-8% average sustained grade</li> <li>Up to 20% for short sections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0-15% average sustained grade</li> <li>Short sections of steeper grade where terrain requires</li> </ul>	
Minimum Bridge Width	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.2 m minimum width</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0.5 m minimum width</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0.3 m minimum width</li> </ul>	

Note: Future updates to the rating system may be completed. See *P7 Trail Rating & Accessibility (p.46)*.



Mount biking in West Kelowna

# 4.0 FUTURE TRAILS SYSTEM (RECOMMENDATIONS)

Master Plans support informed, systematic progress towards a community's goals. To support this progress, the *Recreational Trails Master Plan* provides a set of recommendations and strategies for implementing the ideas, values, and priorities generated through the planning process.

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These recommendations are provided for Council, staff, partners, and the community to consider within the context of ongoing recreational trail planning and budgeting.

The recommendations are based on several sources of input:

- ▶ Consideration of West Kelowna's current plans and strategies that influence recreational trails;
- ▶ Review of regional and provincial plans, strategies, policies, and regulations;
- ▶ Input from the community including ideas from stakeholders, local partners, Mayor and Council, staff, and community members gathered through the engagement process;
- ▶ Analysis of the existing recreational trails network and its assets;
- ▶ Review of West Kelowna context including demographics and land use information;
- ▶ Consideration of trends affecting recreational trails; and
- ▶ The overarching vision and goals.

The recommendations are based on information known at the time of plan development. Recognizing that West Kelowna and the world around it is evolving rapidly, an adaptive approach to implementation will be important. An adaptive approach will monitor when opportunities or changes arise so the community can make informed decisions about which priorities will best support the goals articulated in this Plan.

## 4.1 Recommendations Overview

Three types of recommendations are provided for West Kelowna's Recreational Trails system.

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### **P** TRAIL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Trail planning and development recommendations focus on where and how the overall recreational trails network should develop over the coming decade. The recommendations include an approach to planning and developing the network, as well as steps the City can take to support a network that is safe, comfortable, and connected.

### **M** TRAIL MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Trail management recommendations consider directions for caring for the recreational trails network such as activities and use, etiquette, maintenance, wayfinding, and other elements that affect user experience.

### **C** CAPITAL PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

Capital project recommendations identify key connections that may be a focus for the coming decade to expand and link the recreational trails network.

## 4.2 Detailed Recommendations

The **Detailed Recommendations** provide further information including background, rationale, and key considerations supporting the recommended actions that are summarized in *Section 4.3 Action Summary Tables*.

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### RECOMMENDATION FORMAT

Each recommendation is organized to include the following information:

- ▶ **NUMBER/NAME:** To identify the recommendation.
- ▶ **DESCRIPTION:** A brief statement describing the primary purpose of the recommendation.
- ▶ **BACKGROUND & RATIONALE:** Information about why the recommendation is proposed, including highlights from analysis, trends, and community input. Where applicable, key elements to be addressed as the recommendation is advanced are included.
- ▶ **ACTIONS:** Suggested steps for moving the recommendation forward (which form the basis for the tables in *Section 4.3 Action Summary Tables*).
- ▶ **TIME FRAME:** Relative estimate for planning purposes:
  - »  **SHORT** = 0-5 years
  - »  **MEDIUM** = 6-10 years
  - »  **LONG** = Beyond 10 years
  - »  **ONGOING** = Recurring, no defined time frame
- ▶ **PARTIES:** Potential City departments or agencies, partners, or organizations that could be involved during implementation of an action. Short form legend as follows:
  - » Parks = CWK Parks
  - » Dev. Services = CWK Development Services
  - » Eng. = CWK Engineering
  - » Finance = CWK Finance
  - » Comms. = CWK Communications
  - » SD23 = School District 23
  - » Muni. = Local Municipalities
  - » Prov. = Province of BC (Crown Land)
  - » RDCO = Regional District of Central Okanagan
  - » Volunteers = Community Volunteers
- ▶ **RESOURCING:** An estimated allowance for planning purposes. Budget symbols are as follows:
  - » \$ = <\$50,000
  - » \$\$ = \$50,000 - \$100,000
  - » \$\$\$ = \$100,000 - \$250,000
  - » \$\$\$\$ = \$250,000 - \$500,000
  - »  = Staff Time (existing capacity)
  - »  = Staff Increase
  - »  = Support to Others
- ▶ **RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS:** Other *Recreational Trails Master Plan* recommendations that should be considered concurrently.
- ▶ **REFERENCE:** Sections of the *Recreational Trails Master Plan* or related plans with more information.

## BUDGET ESTIMATING NOTES

Planning-level estimates for capital projects identified in this Plan are provided; however, it is important to read these estimates in the context of the following conditions:

- ▶ Given the broad scope of master planning, costing of capital recommendations should only be considered a planning-level estimate. Planning-level estimates are meant for project budgeting, phasing, and comparative costing only, and are assumed to carry a contingency of +/- ~30%. Costs will continue to be clarified through future steps in planning and design for specific projects.
- ▶ Estimates only consider capital costs in total, not a breakdown of funding sources. It is presumed that projects will be funded using a variety of strategies including those identified in *Section 5.2 Funding Strategies*. In some cases, project implementation may be contingent on West Kelowna securing outside sources of funding. The estimates in this plan are not intended for direct translation into municipal tax calculations.
- ▶ Estimates do not include future land acquisition costs for trails development or potential of long-term major projects that are beyond the 10-year planning horizon, as these costs will vary widely. Land acquisition costs in particular will depend on the manner in which land is acquired.
- ▶ Further planning and design development will provide additional clarity on costs for specific improvements which may increase or decrease estimate numbers. Estimating will be completed during future processes to provide more certainty.
- ▶ As the community, and subsequently the trails system grows, staffing levels, maintenance requirements, and life-cycle needs must be considered. A general “rule-of-thumb” is to expect annual operational, maintenance, and life-cycle costs for recreational trails assets to be from 0.5% to 5% of the capital cost of a new trail. Costs will depend of trail type and amenities. For example, major multi-use trails or trails in high-use areas require more investment for development, operations, and maintenance while nature trails typically require lower development and maintenance costs.
- ▶ Inflation is not included in the estimate. Presumably, improvements implemented five years from now will be more expensive than estimates allocated today due to inflation.
- ▶ Where costs are identified as annual costs, estimating is projected for a 10-year period.



## 4.2.1 TRAIL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

West Kelowna’s recreational trails network has developed incrementally as the community has grown and evolved. Network growth will continue as new connections are added and gaps are filled. A refined and consistent approach to recreational trails planning and development is needed as the network becomes increasingly complex. It will be important to maintain a balance of high quality recreational trails that are safe, functional, and appropriate to the diverse interests and abilities of users.

This section includes recommendations to support cohesive planning, development, management, and operation of recreational trails over the next decade. These recommendations are not specific to a single location, but provide guidance for the network overall.

# 8 TRAIL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

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P1 Recreational Trails Scope

P2 Asset Management & Resourcing

P3 Trails on Private Lands

P4 Parks & Recreational Trails Guidelines

P5 Trailheads

P6 Wayfinding & Signage

P7 Trail Rating & Accessibility

P8 Trail Safety & Security



# TRAIL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

## P1 RECREATIONAL TRAILS SCOPE

Continue to focus and define the role of recreational trails within the City’s overall multi-modal network.

### BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

- ▶ When the 2013 *Recreational Trails Master Plan* was developed, there was little distinction between recreational trails and active transportation routes. Since that time, the roles of each of these networks have become clearer as outlined in *Figure 3 (p.4)*.
- ▶ This clarity comes with the City’s commitment to shift towards a more multi-modal transportation network that encourages sustainable, active transportation choices.
- ▶ With on-street active transportation components addressed in the *Transportation Master Plan*, the *Recreational Trails Master Plan* can focus on off-road connections including trails in parks and neighbourhoods.
- ▶ In many cases, the recreational trails network will link with active transportation routes, emphasizing the importance of ongoing collaboration to prioritize and plan projects to maximize community benefit.

ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	PARTIES	RESOURCING
P1.1 Update City procedures to continue to clarify the active transportation and recreational trails purview.	△ SHORT	Parks Eng.	 Staff Time
P1.2 Conduct a regular meeting of City staff responsible for implementing the <i>Transportation Master Plan</i> and <i>Recreational Trails Master Plan</i> to review respective priority projects, identify synergies, and coordinate delivery of integrated network improvements.	∪ ONGOING	Parks Eng.	 Staff Increase

### RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ *P2 Asset Management & Resourcing (p.37)*
- ▶ *C2 Waterfront Trail (p.61)*

### REFERENCE

- ▶ *Recreational Trails Master Plan Section 1.4 Defining Recreational Trails (p.4)*
- ▶ *Transportation Master Plan (2024)*

## P2 ASSET MANAGEMENT & RESOURCING

Develop a Parks & Recreational Trails Asset Management Plan process in support of the *Corporate Asset Management Plan*.

### BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

- ▶ With significant growth in the recreational trails network over the past decade, from approximately 21 km in 2013 to over 32 km in 2023, there is insufficient capacity to effectively maintain the growing network, or to manage it proactively.
- ▶ With new recreational trails anticipated, including in Goats Peak and Smith Creek development areas, additional resources will be required.
- ▶ Recreational trails are high priorities for the community, with community interest in expansion of trails; development of new trails; maintenance of existing trails; and trail use management, all of which require resources.
- ▶ Effective management requires accurate, up-to-date data and a forward-looking approach that informs decisions about ongoing upgrades and management of trail assets.
- ▶ The City's OCP includes policy that supports asset management planning with consideration for long-term life-cycle full cost accounting.
- ▶ Many communities are developing Asset Management Plans for parks and trails assets to provide a more quantifiable understanding of these services and the funds required to continue to service them effectively over time.
- ▶ A *Parks & Recreational Trails Asset Management Plan* would update and build upon existing trails information West Kelowna has by collecting up-to-date data, assessing the current state of recreational trails assets, identifying upgrade costs, and outlining a life-cycle management approach.
- ▶ A process to develop a trails inventory and *Parks & Recreational Trails Asset Management Plan* that includes existing recreational trails may include:
  - » Survey and inventory to accurately map existing recreational trails and capture current data on trail lengths, types, ratings, alignments, start/finish, materials, accessibility, and condition. The inventory could also collect data on trailheads, amenities, and signage.
  - » Compilation of collected data into the City's GIS database for ongoing analysis and communications.
  - » A life-cycle analysis to determine the current state and backlog of existing recreational trails maintenance.
  - » A prioritized plan to upgrade existing trails and integrate new connections where feasible.

# TRAIL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS



ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	PARTIES	RESOURCING
P2.1 Establish a Recreational Trails operational budget line item specific to this service.	△ SHORT	Parks Finance	Staff Time
P2.2 Consider a staff position specific to operation and management of recreational trails.	△ SHORT	Parks Finance	\$\$ \$50-\$100K/ year Staff Increase
P2.3 Undertake a comprehensive baseline inventory for recreational trails to inform the Parks & Recreational Trails Asset Management Plan.	△ SHORT	Parks	\$\$ \$50-\$100K
P2.4 Incorporate recreational trails as part of an initial Parks & Recreational Trails Asset Management Plan (refer to the Parks Master Plan, Q5.2).	△ SHORT	Parks	Refer to Parks Master Plan
P2.5 Based on Parks & Recreational Trails Asset Management Plan outcomes, review and adjust annual recreational trails budgets.	△ SHORT	Parks Finance	<b>TBD</b> based on Asset Mgmt. Plan
P2.6 Undertake regular reviews/updates of the Parks & Recreational Trails Asset Management Plan (e.g., every 3-5 years).	∪ ONGOING	Parks	Staff Increase

### RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ M2 Trail Maintenance (p.52)

### REFERENCE

- ▶ Recreational Trails Master Plan Section 2.2 Existing Trails System (p.15)
- ▶ Council's Strategic Priorities (2022-2026)
- ▶ Official Community Plan (2023)

## P3 TRAILS ON PRIVATE LANDS

Encourage and support trail access through privately-owned lands where there are willing landowners and community benefits.

### BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

- ▶ West Kelowna has an abundance of open space and agricultural lands interwoven through the City. These lands, while privately held, may see some informal trail use. However, private lands may also limit the ability to create trail connections.
- ▶ Through public input, the community has indicated strong interest in experiencing the tranquility and beauty of the City’s agricultural and open space fabric, which is generally under private ownership beyond the street network. While recreational trails access in these areas could have many benefits, there are many challenges to address, even with a willing landowner. These could include liability, trespass, privacy concerns, and potential for damage. However, this does not mean establishing such routes is impossible.
- ▶ Some avenues that may warrant exploration to support trails expansion on private lands include:
  - » **Land Donation:** Tax laws allow individuals and corporations to deduct from their taxable income for gifts of property in specific circumstances, including environmental protection.
  - » **Use Agreements:** A City can coordinate with local organizations and private landowners to explore opportunities that may benefit the trail network and the common good, for example, securing rights to trail development and management with willing landowners through easements, licences, or leases. Some municipalities also provide tax relief to private landowners who accept public use of trails on their land.
  - » **Collaboration:** Economic development and tourism agencies often promote experiences like the Westside Farm Loop or Westside Wine Trail. While these routes primarily follow the road network, opportunities may exist to identify off-road connections that could enhance experiences. Recreational trails could play a role in such routes.




The Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia has developed a *Guide for Developing Public Trails on Private Lands*.

The guide helps landowners and trail organizations understand the complexities of developing public trails on private lands and how to embrace best practices for planning; environmental design (to respect context); monitoring and impact mitigation (from development and use); and public education.

# P TRAIL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS



Boucherie Multi-use Pathway

ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	PARTIES	RESOURCING
P3.1 Where landowners express interest/willingness to permit public access through private lands, collaborate with the landowner to determine appropriate agreement arrangements and, where needed, address issues around liability, management, and responsibilities.	 ONGOING	Parks Dev. Services	 Staff Time
P3.2 Research urban agricultural trail precedents and practices including Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)/Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) permissions to consider if and how such trails could exist in West Kelowna and the City's potential role(s).	 MEDIUM	Parks	 Staff Time

### RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ *M3 Trail Use Guidelines & Codes of Conduct (p.54)*

### REFERENCE


- ▶ *Council's Strategic Priorities (2022-2026)*
- ▶ *Agricultural Plan (2011)*

# P4 PARKS & RECREATIONAL TRAILS GUIDELINES

Incorporate updated recreational trails guidelines into the new Parks & Recreational Trails Design Guidelines to provide clear, consistent guidance on design.

## BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

- ▶ Every year, new recreational trails projects are completed. Some of these projects are led by the City, while some are done by others to meet development requirements.
- ▶ A set of standard guidelines that can be used by City staff, planners, consultants, and contractors will support a parks and recreational trails network that is consistent, coherent, and appropriate to the character of West Kelowna. Guidelines will also increase efficiency of design, construction, and maintenance of parks and recreational trails.
- ▶ The *Parks Master Plan* contains a recommendation to develop comprehensive Parks & Recreational Trails Design Guidelines. A single guideline document for both parks and recreational trails is recommended as trails are often located within parks, the networks share similar amenities, and consistency is desired.
- ▶ The *2013 Recreational Trails Master Plan* included preliminary guidelines for recreational trails. These guidelines have been refined within this updated Plan and should be further developed in the new Parks & Recreational Trails Design Guidelines.

ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	PARTIES	RESOURCING
P4.1 Incorporate updated recreational trails guidelines within the <i>West Kelowna Parks &amp; Recreational Trails Design Guidelines</i> . Guidelines should incorporate the following aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Wayfinding &amp; Signage (see P6)</li> <li>» Trail Rating &amp; Accessibility (see P7)</li> <li>» Trail Safety &amp; Security (see P8)</li> <li>» Environmental Management (see M1)</li> </ul>	△ SHORT	Parks	Refer to Parks Master Plan
P4.2 Provide the updated <i>Parks &amp; Recreational Trails Design Guidelines</i> to all parties involved in projects that will be ultimately maintained by Parks.	∞ ONGOING	Parks Dev. Services	 Staff Time

## RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ P1 *Recreational Trails Scope* (p.36)
- ▶ P5 *Trailheads* (p.42)
- ▶ P8 *Trail Safety & Security* (p.47)
- ▶ M1 *Environmental Management* (p.50)

## REFERENCE

- ▶ *Parks Master Plan (2024)*

# TRAIL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS



## P5 TRAILHEADS

Continue to add new trailheads and improve existing ones throughout the network.

### BACKGROUND & RATIONALE


- ▶ Trailheads are the access points into the recreational trails networks. These are staging areas where people park, prepare for their journey, and get oriented.
- ▶ *Table 4* outlines two scales of trailheads that are recommended for the recreational trails network.

Table 4: Typical Trailhead Types

TYPE	TYPICAL TRAIL APPLICATION	TYPICAL FACILITIES
<p><b>Major Trailhead/ Staging Area</b></p> 	<p>Primary point of access into the recreational trails network. Typically located where space is available for parking and other amenities and at locations that are convenient for accessing the network.</p> <p><b>Examples:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mount Boucherie Trailheads (Darroch Park, East Boundary Road, Eain Lamont Park, Cabernet Way)</li> <li>▪ Rose Valley Trails Trailhead (pictured)</li> <li>▪ Smith Creek Trails Trailhead (managed by others)</li> <li>▪ Regional Park Trailheads (managed by the RDCO)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parking lot</li> <li>▪ Information kiosk/signage</li> <li>▪ Waste/recycling receptacles</li> <li>▪ Additional potential facilities:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Gathering area</li> <li>» Benches</li> <li>» Washroom</li> <li>» Bike rack</li> <li>» Bike repair station</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Minor Trailhead</b></p> 	<p>Smaller points of access often located where trails cross streets or linkages from neighbourhoods into the network. These spaces typically include more limited amenities like wayfinding and regulatory information.</p> <p><b>Examples:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rotary Trails Park</li> <li>▪ Cobblestone Park</li> <li>▪ Powerline Trail (pictured)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wayfinding signage</li> <li>▪ Additional potential facilities:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Parking or on-street parking</li> <li>» Waste/recycling receptacle</li> <li>» Gates/fencing</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



- ▶ Trailheads positioned throughout the community provide multiple entry points into the network and help users navigate and make use of recreational trails.
- ▶ Since 2013, the City has developed a number of trailheads throughout the community; however, there are opportunities for improvements and additions.
- ▶ Community input identified the addition of trail amenities as a priority, in particular, washroom access, parking, and waste receptacles, which are typical to trailhead locations.
- ▶ Design and amenities for trailheads should be guided by the future *West Kelowna Parks & Recreational Trails Guidelines* (see P4).
- ▶ **Map A: Existing Trails Inventory (2023)** shows locations of existing trailheads.

ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	PARTIES	RESOURCING
P5.1 As part of the <i>Parks &amp; Recreational Trails Asset Management Plan</i> (see P2), develop and maintain a working list of trailhead additions or upgrades.		See P2	
P5.2 Target development and/or upgrade of an average of one trailhead per year (with associated development and operational increases) to enhance navigation and use of the network.	ONGOING	Parks	<p><b>\$-\$\$\$\$/year</b> depending on scale and amenities</p> <p> Staff Increase</p>

- ### RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS
- ▶ P2 Asset Management & Resourcing (p.37)
  - ▶ P4 Parks & Recreational Trails Guidelines (p.41)
  - ▶ P6 Wayfinding & Signage (p.44)
  - ▶ M2 Trail Maintenance (p.52)

- ### REFERENCE
- ▶ *Parks Master Plan* (2024)

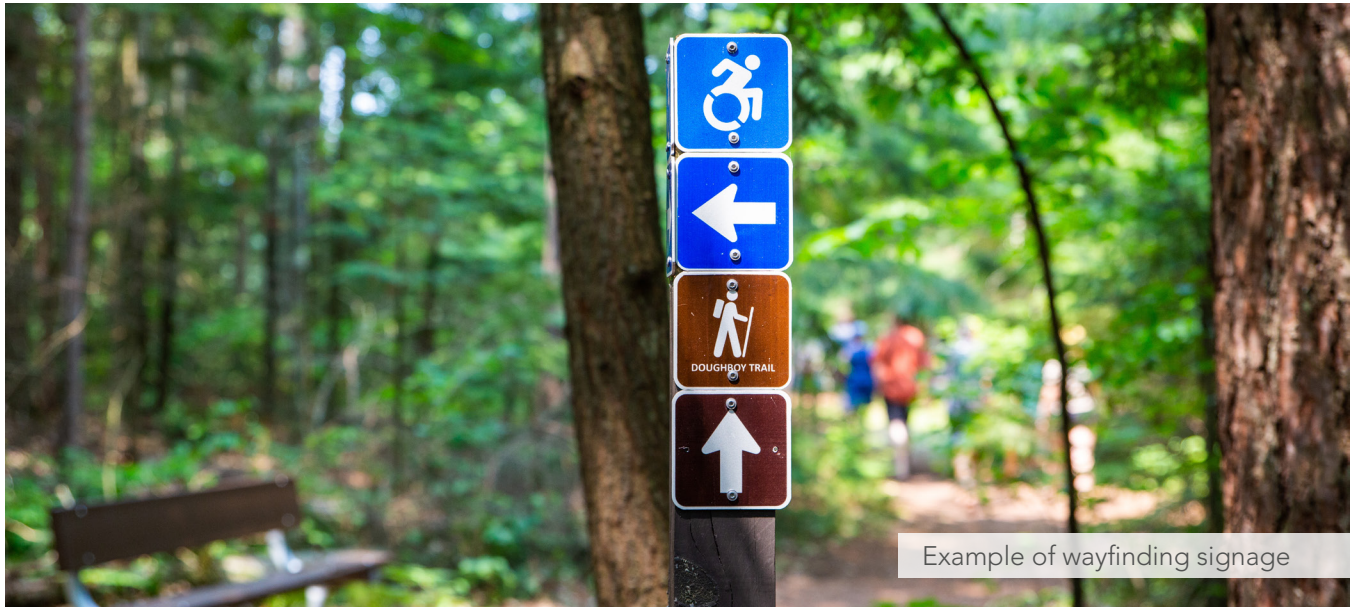
# P TRAIL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

## P6 WAYFINDING & SIGNAGE

Enhance the wayfinding and signage program to increase community awareness and access to information about the recreational trails network.

### BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

- ▶ Wayfinding signage is a key asset that helps users navigate and enjoy recreational trails.
- ▶ A robust wayfinding and signage program includes both information a user can access before visiting and the physical signage encountered in the network.
- ▶ Typical wayfinding signage could include:
  - » **Directional signage** to support safe and effective navigation of the network.
  - » **Regulatory signage** informing people about regulations and permitted uses on recreational trails.
  - » **Warning signage** about hazards or other issues that could affect safety or use.
  - » **Interpretive signage** with relevant information about cultural, heritage, environmental, geological, or other aspects of the area.
- ▶ Online wayfinding could include up-to-date mapping tools.
- ▶ Opportunities may exist to collaborate with other jurisdictions on wayfinding efforts to benefit the larger recreational trails network.
- ▶ Community input indicated that residents are generally satisfied with the quality of existing signage, but would like more signage across the network. Feedback also indicated an interest in more maps, both digital and physical, that clearly articulate routes, level of difficulty, trailhead locations, amenities, and regulations.



Example of wayfinding signage

ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	PARTIES	RESOURCING
P6.1 As part of the <i>Parks &amp; Recreational Trails Asset Management Plan</i> (see P2), develop and maintain a working list of wayfinding additions or upgrades.		See P2	
P6.2 Develop a West Kelowna trails digital navigation tool.	▷ MEDIUM	Parks & Trails GIS	\$\$\$ \$100-\$250K
P6.3 Include wayfinding signage in the City's <i>Parks &amp; Recreational Trails Guidelines</i> (See P4).		See P4	
P6.4 Develop an updated trails map that could be incorporated into wayfinding kiosks, signage, and print information.	▷ MEDIUM	Parks Comms.	\$\$ \$50-\$100K Staff Increase
P6.5 Complete priority signage additions or upgrades on an annual basis.	∪ ONGOING	Parks	\$ <\$50K/year Staff Increase
P6.6 Continue to name major trails to assist in recognition following the guidance of the <i>Parks Naming Policy</i> .	∪ ONGOING	Parks Comms.	Staff Time

## RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ P2 Asset Management & Resourcing (p.37)
- ▶ P4 Parks & Recreational Trails Guidelines (p.41)
- ▶ P5 Trailheads (p.42)

## REFERENCE

# TRAIL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

## P7 TRAIL RATING & ACCESSIBILITY

Provide information about level of difficulty within the network and seek opportunities to increase accessibility in key locations.

### BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

- ▶ A recreational trails network should provide an appropriate balance of effort and reward for users, with trails that have varied levels of difficulty, requiring different skill sets.
- ▶ Prior to 2013, West Kelowna’s trail system had no classification of trails according to difficulty, type of user, or design standards. The *2013 Recreational Trails Master Plan* provided a foundation for trail difficulty ratings based on considerations like width, surfacing, and grade. *Section 3.3 Trail Rating System* provides updated information.
- ▶ Community input indicated opportunities to increase accessibility on select trails.
- ▶ Accessible design enables people of all ages and abilities to experience recreational trails by implementing measures to reduce or remove barriers.
- ▶ Identifying select trails (e.g., high-use trails or trails within neighbourhood centres or near destination parks) for accessibility improvements will create a more inclusive experience.
- ▶ Incorporating information about accessibility into wayfinding helps users select routes that match their abilities (see P6).
- ▶ External funding opportunities may be available for accessibility improvements.

ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	PARTIES	RESOURCING
P7.1 As a part of the baseline inventory and <i>Parks &amp; Recreational Trails Asset Management Plan</i> include: » Assignment of updated ratings to all existing trails » Identification of potential accessibility upgrade projects		See P2	
P7.2 Include accessibility considerations within the <i>Parks &amp; Recreational Trails Guidelines</i> by trail type (i.e., targeting select trails such as green rated trails or multi-use trails).		See P4	
P7.3 Include or add trail ratings to recreational trails digital navigation tools and print-ready maps.		See P6	
P7.4 Continue to engage with non-profit organizations to seek opportunities to improve accessibility on select trails.	ONGOING	Parks	Staff Time

### RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ P2 Asset Management & Resourcing (p.37)
- ▶ P4 Parks & Recreational Trails Guidelines (p.41)
- ▶ P6 Wayfinding & Signage (p.44)
- ▶ P8 Trail Safety & Security (p.47)

### REFERENCE

- ▶ *Recreational Trails Master Plan Section 3.3 Trail Rating System* (p.28)
- ▶ *Parks Master Plan (2024)*
- ▶ *Council's Strategic Priorities (2022-2026)*

# P8 TRAIL SAFETY & SECURITY

Undertake improvements to enhance safety and security on recreational trails.

## BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

- ▶ Using recreational trails comes with inherent risks, especially where trails are in wilderness areas. While it is impossible to eliminate all risk, safety enhancement can support user comfort and experience.
- ▶ Safety on trails will be supported by several recommendations in this Plan including:
  - » *P4 Parks & Recreational Trails Guidelines* to incorporate safety considerations with future trail development guidelines.
  - » *P6 Wayfinding & Signage* so users can navigate the network.
  - » *P7 Trail Rating & Accessibility* so users can understand if trails align with their abilities and the activities they wish to pursue.
  - » *M2 Trail Maintenance* to support ongoing care of network assets.
  - » *M3 Trail Use Guidelines & Codes of Conduct* to increase awareness about appropriate use in the network and sharing trails with others.
- ▶ Community input indicated the following ideas to support safety for recreational trails:
  - » Select trail upgrades in steep areas to manage slope and erosion issues.
  - » Additional amenities such as lighting at trailheads or in key connections.
  - » Updates to reduce potential of user conflicts through clear use guidelines or design improvements such as lay-bys that allow users to pass safely.
  - » Increased information about potential risks on trails (e.g., potential to encounter wildlife, poisonous vegetation, unstable surfacing, other users, etc.)

ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	PARTIES	RESOURCING
P8.1 Include safety guidance for recreational trails within the City's <i>Parks &amp; Recreational Trails Guidelines</i> (see <i>P4</i> ) and include these considerations in all new or upgrade projects.		See <i>P4</i>	
P8.2 Post information about potential risks in the network through online information and signage as they are identified following Municipal Insurance Association of British Columbia (MIABC) recommendations.	ONGOING	Parks Comms.	Staff Time

## RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ *P4 Parks & Recreational Trails Guidelines* (p.41)
- ▶ *P6 Wayfinding & Signage* (p.44)
- ▶ *P7 Trail Rating & Accessibility* (p.46)
- ▶ *M2 Trail Maintenance* (p.52)
- ▶ *M3 Trail Use Guidelines & Codes of Conduct* (p.54)

## REFERENCE

- ▶ *Parks Master Plan (2024)*



Mount Boucherie multi-use pathway

## 4.2.2 TRAILS MANAGEMENT

Effective management of recreational trails helps support and maintain the network to minimize conflict and maximize benefits. Management includes both physical maintenance, along with clear guidance on permitted uses and sharing of the network.

A trails management program supports the following objectives:

- ▶ Trail user safety;
- ▶ Risk management and liability;
- ▶ Protection of the environment;
- ▶ Ongoing provision of convenient recreation access;
- ▶ Protection of investments; and
- ▶ Attraction of new users, tourism, and economic development.

This section outlines recommendations for managing the recreational trails network so it continues to provide long-term community benefit.

# 5 TRAILS MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

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M1 Environmental Management

M2 Trail Maintenance

M3 Trail Use Guidelines & Codes of Conduct

M4 Pets on Trails

M5 Volunteers & Organizations

# M TRAIL MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

## M1 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Plan and manage recreational trails in a way that respects the natural environment.

### BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

- ▶ Recreational trails often occur in natural areas – and a key part of their value is permitting people to immerse themselves in nature. This means that a fundamental aspect of sustainable trail management is environmental stewardship to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate adverse impacts to sensitive ecosystems, species at risk, soils, water, wildlife, and vegetation.
- ▶ While recreational trails use is typically considered a low-impact recreation activity, issues like unauthorized trail building, routing through sensitive areas, misuse or overuse, littering, vandalism, and other activities can compromise the natural environment.
- ▶ Environmental impacts are compounded by climate change which can increase risks such as erosion, drought, wind-induced tree losses, and wildfire hazard.
- ▶ Community input indicates that environmental enhancement and protection are priorities for West Kelowna residents, including ongoing protection of iconic natural areas like Mount Boucherie where the recreational trails network provides access through sensitive landscapes.
- ▶ Residents also indicated a desire for more information about the natural environment and the importance of protecting natural spaces.
- ▶ Key activities that can support environmental management of recreational trails include:
  - » Reviewing and either formalizing or closing unsanctioned informal trails.
  - » Developing a maintenance approach for reviewing and making changes to existing recreational trails.
  - » Rerouting or closing trails through sensitive areas.
  - » Developing and implementing clear design guidelines with environmental protection considerations for future trail development or upgrades. See *P4 Parks & Recreational Trails Guidelines*.
  - » Clearly defining appropriate uses and behaviours for the trails network. See *M3 Trail Use Guidelines & Codes of Conduct*.
  - » Enhancing environmental awareness and appreciation through education and interpretation.
  - » Supporting involvement of others in trail stewardship and environmental protection initiatives. See *M5 Volunteers & Organizations*.





Powers Creek

ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	PARTIES	RESOURCING
M1.1 Include environmental management considerations within the <i>Parks &amp; Recreational Trails Guidelines</i> (see <i>Parks &amp; Recreational Trails Guidelines</i> ).		See P4	
M1.2 As part of recreational trail maintenance planning (see M2), include identification of trails with environmental impacts and make plans to reduce these impacts.		See M2	
M1.3 Define and clearly communicate appropriate uses and regulations for recreational trails (see M3).		See M3	

**RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS**

- ▶ P4 Parks & Recreational Trails Guidelines (p.41)
- ▶ P5 Trailheads (p.42)
- ▶ M2 Trail Maintenance (p.52)
- ▶ M3 Trail Use Guidelines & Codes of Conduct (p.54)
- ▶ M4 Pets on Trails (p.56)
- ▶ M5 Volunteers & Organizations (p.57)

**REFERENCE**

- ▶ Parks Master Plan (2024)
- ▶ Corporate Climate Action Plan (2023)
- ▶ Council's Strategic Priorities (2022-2026)
- ▶ Official Community Plan (2023)

# M TRAIL MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

## M2 TRAIL MAINTENANCE



Develop and implement a systematic approach to maintaining recreational trails.

### BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

- ▶ Like any infrastructure asset, recreational trails must be maintained to minimize deterioration/loss and support public safety. As the network grows, maintenance needs increase. Ongoing maintenance is required for both risk mitigation and insurance purposes.
- ▶ Community input indicates resident support for enhanced trails maintenance.
- ▶ A maintenance program assigns regular maintenance activities to each trail component based on trail type and use. Generally, trails through natural areas require less frequent maintenance than trails in more urban settings.
- ▶ The *2013 Recreational Trails Master Plan* included an action to develop maintenance standards for each type of trail in the recreational network. A maintenance standard, combined with a comprehensive database of trails assets (see *P2 Asset Management & Resourcing*), is an effective tool for forecasting and estimating trail maintenance requirements.
- ▶ A maintenance program could include:
  - » Identification of regular maintenance activities such as trail resurfacing and repairs, waste/recycling bin emptying, litter pick-up, signage and furnishing maintenance, vegetation management, sweeping, and/or snow removal, along with frequency of relevant activities for each existing trail, based on trail type and level of use. Seasonal use considerations should be included when establishing a maintenance program.
  - » Frequency and timing of trails monitoring, depending on trail type and level of use.
  - » Monitoring inspection guidelines or checklists to be used during reviews.
  - » A rating scale and criteria for setting trail upgrade priorities. Criteria may include aspects like safety, environmental impacts, level of use, scale of deterioration, and public input.
  - » Identification of informal and unauthorized routes that may warrant consideration either for formalization or closure and rehabilitation.
  - » A priority list of trail upgrade projects. These would include projects that require a higher level of effort than day-to-day maintenance can provide, such as realignments, replacement of infrastructure (e.g., stairs), resurfacing, closure and rehabilitation, or other major upgrade projects.

**MAINTENANCE CONSIDERATIONS**

- ▶ Practice environmentally-sound maintenance in all areas.
- ▶ Remove brush vegetation within the clear zone as needed to manage wildfire risk and address Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).
- ▶ Inspect trails for erosion, trail braiding, or water flowing down the trail, and repair trails as needed to manage these conditions.
- ▶ Clear natural debris, remove plants growing on the trail surface, restore the surface as needed, clear and maintain drainage features, and repair structures such as signs, railing, bridges, and steps.
- ▶ In natural areas, include the following maintenance practices:
  - » Manage vegetation along trails with the objectives of ecological protection and enhancement balanced with the provision of safe and comfortable user experiences.
  - » Remove unauthorized structures and block redundant trails. Use coarse woody debris or other natural materials to decommission unsanctioned trails.
  - » Set up environmental monitoring sites in locations with known concerns in order to quantify damage and monitor results of improvements or repairs.

ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	PARTIES	RESOURCING
M2.1 Assign funding and staffing to support ongoing monitoring and maintenance activities for the recreational trails network.	△ SHORT	Parks	 Staff Increase \$\$\$ \$100-\$250K/year
M2.2 Following from the <i>Parks &amp; Recreational Trails Asset Management Plan</i> (see <i>P2 and Parks Master Plan</i> ), develop a detailed Trails Monitoring & Maintenance Program that categorizes recreational trails by trail type (i.e., major multi-use, narrow multi-use, nature trail) and use, and assigns expected monitoring and maintenance tasks and frequencies.	▽ LONG	Parks	 Staff Increase \$\$ \$50-\$100K

**RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS**

- ▶ *P2 Asset Management & Resourcing* (p.37)
- ▶ *P8 Trail Safety & Security* (p.47)
- ▶ *M1 Environmental Management* (p.50)

**REFERENCE**

- ▶ *Parks Master Plan* (2024)

# M TRAIL MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

## M3 TRAIL USE GUIDELINES & CODES OF CONDUCT

Formalize and communicate trail use guidelines and codes of conduct for West Kelowna's recreational trails.



### BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

- ▶ All of West Kelowna's existing recreational trails are shared use trails. Given the more urban location of the trails (as opposed to the backcountry Crown land networks), the primary users of West Kelowna's recreational trails are walkers, hikers, and dog-walkers, with more limited numbers of recreational rollers and mountain bikers depending on trail type. Some participants also reported cross-country skiing.
- ▶ Motorized uses on West Kelowna's recreational trails are not permitted.
- ▶ When trails are shared by different user groups, conflict can occur. While reported conflicts are currently low, as the community grows, more residents and visitors will be sharing the network.
- ▶ Evolving technologies such as electric-powered devices (e.g., e-bikes and e-scooters) are becoming increasingly popular in West Kelowna.
- ▶ The growing use of electric-powered devices will increasingly affect recreational trails, for example, speed/interface of e-devices with other user groups, infrastructure impacts such as compaction and erosion, and increased need for monitoring and enforcement.
- ▶ A clearly defined trails code of conduct is an effective strategy to manage trail use and mitigate user conflict. A code of conduct establishes how people are intended to use and share specific trails, including:
  - » Permitted and restricted uses, e.g., non-motorized/motorized uses, biking, dog activity, electric powered devices, etc.
  - » Environmental protection practices, e.g., staying on the trail, no unauthorized trail building, etc.
  - » User interaction practices, e.g., user group hierarchy.
  - » Best practices and trail etiquette, e.g., safety considerations and behavioural practices such as pack-in, pack-out, dog waste management, etc.

See **Appendix B** for examples of code of conduct practices.
- ▶ The City currently provides code of conduct information at select trailheads such as the Mount Boucherie Park trails network. This information is a starting point to refining code of conduct and communicating information more broadly throughout the network.
- ▶ Participants ranked establishing code of conduct and trail use guidelines within their top three priorities for recreational trails.



Use and code of conduct signs at Mount Boucherie Park

ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	PARTIES	RESOURCING
M3.1 Establish trail use guidelines and code of conduct information for the different trail types within the recreational trails network and make this information available via the City website, Recreation Guide, and other typical communications materials.	▽ LONG	Parks Recreation Comms.	 Staff Increase
M3.2 During future wayfinding projects (see P6), incorporate code of conduct information throughout the network.		See P6	
M3.3 Continue to monitor emerging trends in trail user technologies (e.g., e-assist, e-bikes, etc.) and research and consider policy updates to manage potential for conflict.	↻ ONGOING	Parks	 Staff Time

**RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS**

- ▶ P6 Wayfinding & Signage (p.44)
- ▶ P7 Trail Rating & Accessibility (p.46)
- ▶ M1 Environmental Management (p.50)
- ▶ M4 Pets on Trails (p.56)

**REFERENCE**

- ▶ Recreational Trails Master Plan (2024), Appendix B

# M TRAIL MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

## M4 PETS ON TRAILS

Develop a trails network that accommodates both dog owners and non-owners and protects the environment.

### BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

- ▶ The presence and management of dogs on trails can be a contentious topic. Many who own dogs often desire more access to off-leash opportunities due to the health and social benefits for both people and their pets; however, some people who have had poor experiences or are afraid of dogs communicate a desire for spaces where dog interactions can be avoided.
- ▶ Current practices are for dogs to be on-leash in all City and RDCO Parks, except in designated off-leash areas. This includes the recreational trails network.
- ▶ Increasing accommodation of pets on trails must be balanced with safety, environmental management, and potential for damage to facilities.
- ▶ Engagement input identified dog exercise as one of the top activities on West Kelowna's recreational trails. Participants in the Trails Ideas Questionnaire indicated an interest in increasing the number of dog off-leash trails in the community, where residents can walk or hike with their pet off-leash.
- ▶ Feedback also indicated a desire for better management of dogs on trails to limit potential conflicts and trail impacts.
- ▶ In the process, a range of candidate locations were identified that could be suitable for dog off-leash trails. Each location would need to be carefully considered for suitability:
  - » Casa Palmero Park
  - » Eain Lamont Park
  - » Faulkner Creek Park
  - » Gates Grove Park
  - » Glen Canyon Park (municipal section or coordination with RDCO for regional park)
  - » Rock Ridge Park
  - » Rose Ridge Park
  - » Sandstone Park
  - » Tallus Ridge Trails
  - » Powerline Walkway
- ▶ If off-leash trails are explored, a communications strategy and signage should be developed to provide information about trail use, conflicts, and responsibilities.

ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	PARTIES	RESOURCING
M4.1 Seek to pilot one designated dog off-leash trail within the recreational trails network. Monitor trail use and function.	▶ MEDIUM	Parks	\$ <\$50K
M4.2 Incorporate dog management within code of conduct information for recreational trails (see M3).		See M3	

### RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ M1 Environmental Management (p.50)
- ▶ M3 Trail Use Guidelines & Codes of Conduct (p.54)

### REFERENCE


- ▶ Parks Master Plan (2024)

# M5 VOLUNTEERS & ORGANIZATIONS

Consider opportunities to engage organizations and individuals in support of the recreational trails network.

## BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

- ▶ Volunteer programs can support municipal resources, create solid community partnerships, provide energy for initiatives, encourage public involvement, and build civic pride; however, management of volunteer programs also require significant support and time from City staff to administer.
- ▶ Volunteer programs are only successful when sufficient staff resources are dedicated to supporting the programs and there needs to be careful consideration about benefits for all parties involved.
- ▶ Community members are passionate about the trails network, and opportunities may exist to engage external organizations or individuals in support of maintaining the system.
- ▶ Public input indicated that trail users may be willing to assist with trail planning, trail construction, stewardship, maintenance, monitoring, conflict resolution, and marketing.
- ▶ Specific organizations like the School District use recreational trails for school programs, and opportunities may exist for collaborations.
- ▶ The *Parks Master Plan* includes a recommendation for developing a parks volunteer plan/program. Potential for trails volunteering opportunities could be incorporated.

ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	PARTIES	RESOURCING
M5.1 Include consideration for recreational trails volunteer opportunities within an overall parks volunteer plan/program.			Refer to Parks Master Plan
M5.2 Meet with SD23 to discuss current program use of the recreational trails network and identify opportunities for potential collaborations.	△ SHORT	Parks SD23	 Staff Increase

## RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ *M1 Environmental Management (p.50)*
- ▶ *M2 Trail Maintenance (p.52)*
- ▶ *C7 Support for Crown Land Trail Initiatives (p.67)*
- ▶ *C8 Support for Partner Trail Initiatives (p.68)*

## REFERENCE

- ▶ *Parks Master Plan (2024)*



All-season activities on West Kelowna's recreational trails



### 4.2.3 CAPITAL PROJECTS

Through engagement, including this process and others, the community has identified a range of pedestrian and cycling connections that they desire for West Kelowna's future. Many of these linkages will be located within transportation rights-of-way and are addressed in the *Transportation Master Plan* as active transportation routes (see *Section 1.4 Defining Recreational Trails*). However, there are a number of recreational trail routes that also warrant consideration and are detailed here.

The recommendations in this section include projects focused on addressing key connections that have a recreation focus. All projects identified will require further planning and analysis, budget development, and may require land acquisition.

## CAPITAL PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

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C1 Goats Peak Trails Network

C2 Waterfront Trail

C3 Flume Trail

C4 Mount Boucherie Trails

C5 Rock Ridge Park Trail

C6 Other Recreational Trail Projects

C7 Support for Crown Land Trail Initiatives

C8 Support for Partner Trail Initiatives

# CAPITAL PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

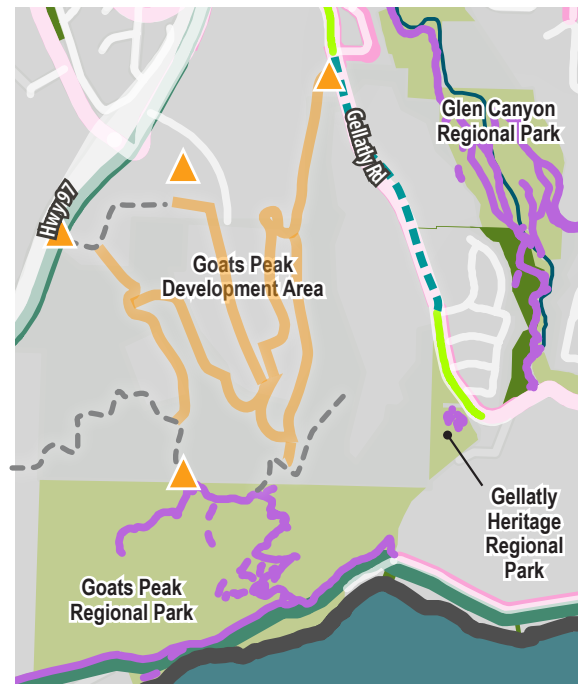
## C1 GOATS PEAK TRAILS NETWORK

As development occurs in the Goats Peak area, secure a linked trails network that connects to trails in adjacent Regional Parks and neighbourhoods.


<p><b>ANTICIPATED TRAIL TYPES</b></p>	 Narrow Multi-use	 Nature Trail	<p><b>ANTICIPATED TRAIL RATINGS</b></p>	 Easy	 Moderate
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### BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

- ▶ The Goats Peak area has long been a popular hiking area with scenic viewpoints over Okanagan Lake. There is high public interest in preservation of natural areas and trails in this area.
- ▶ The approved *Goats Peak Comprehensive Development Plan* lays out a trails connectivity network for the future neighbourhood and a covenant has been secured by the City for the trail routes identified.
- ▶ The trails will be constructed as development in the area proceeds and will ultimately become part of the City's recreational trails inventory.
- ▶ The future trails will feature:
  - » Connections into exiting trails networks in Glen Canyon Regional Park, Goats Peak Regional Park, and Gellatly Heritage Regional Park.
  - » Connection to an upgraded multi-use trail along Gellatly Road.
  - » A range of recreational experiences for diverse users and various abilities.



Information is for planning purposes only. Lines indicated are not verified and should not be interpreted as a literal representation of existing conditions.

ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	PARTIES	RESOURCING
C1.1 Require recreational trails and amenities be completed as development of the Goats Peak neighbourhood progresses and maintain the trails once they are added to the network in compliance with standards and guidelines.	ONGOING	Parks Dev. Services	 Staff Increase (upon development)

### RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ *P2 Asset Management & Resourcing (p.37)*

### REFERENCE

- ▶ *Goats Peak Comprehensive Development Plan (2017)*



## C2 WATERFRONT TRAIL

Collaborate with active transportation and others to work towards a linked waterfront trail from Bennett Bridge to Peachland.

<p><b>ANTICIPATED TRAIL TYPES</b></p>	 Major Multi-use	 Narrow Multi-use	<p><b>ANTICIPATED TRAIL RATINGS</b></p>	 Easy
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### BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

- ▶ Trail 2000 was a long-term community vision to establish the Trail of the Okanagans — a multi-use waterfront trail to connect from Bennett Bridge to Peachland. Since that time, a range of City and Regional initiatives continue to identify this key connection as a priority.
- ▶ Public input continues to prioritize waterfront experiences. There is strong community desire to connect waterfront areas into the trails network, including extension of existing waterfront trails.
- ▶ The existing Gellatly Bay Recreational Corridor is a portion of the larger envisioned waterfront trail.
- ▶ While most of this future linkage will be an active transportation route, recreational trail components and connections may be required.
- ▶ Refer to the *Transportation Master Plan* for routing and costing information.

ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	PARTIES	RESOURCING
C2.1 Continue to collaborate on opportunities for waterfront trail development.	🔄 ONGOING	Parks Eng. Dev. Services RDCO WFN Others	 Staff Time
C2.2 Allocate staff time to support waterfront trail initiatives.	🔄 ONGOING	Parks	 Staff Increase

### RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ P1 Recreational Trails Scope (p.36)
- ▶ P2 Asset Management & Resourcing (p.37)

### REFERENCE

- ▶ *Transportation Master Plan (2024)*
- ▶ *Parks Master Plan (2024)*
- ▶ *Waterfront Plan (2011)*

# CAPITAL PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

## C3 FLUME TRAIL

As development continues in Smith Creek, formalize the Flume Trail.

<b>ANTICIPATED TRAIL TYPES</b>	 Narrow Multi-use	 Nature Trail	<b>ANTICIPATED TRAIL RATINGS</b>	 Easy	 Moderate

### BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

- ▶ The Smith Creek area has several informal east-west trail connections, including the existing Flume Trail; however, a formal route has not been established.
- ▶ Over the years, community input has indicated that a continuous off-road connection from Glen Canyon to the Rose Valley neighbourhood is desirable. The existing informal Flume Trail would be a key component.
- ▶ The OCP indicates future development in this area. To maintain east-west connectivity, the *Smith Creek Comprehensive Development Plan* shows a pedestrian connection near the informal Tallus Flume route.

- ▶ As development proceeds, securing and developing a high-quality, linked recreational trail is a high priority.
- ▶ In addition to the main trail, rights-of-way between the street network, parks (e.g., Smith Creek Greenway, Powerline Walkway), and the new trail should be prioritized to provide many opportunities for access.



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ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	PARTIES	RESOURCING
C3.1 Require recreational trails and amenities to be completed as development of the Smith Creek neighbourhood progresses and maintain the trails once they are added to the network.	ONGOING	Parks Dev. Services	Staff Increase (upon development)
C3.2 Ensure future development plans include multiple access points between the street network and the Flume Trail in the Smith Creek neighbourhood.	ONGOING	Parks Dev. Services Eng.	Staff time

### RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ P2 Asset Management & Resourcing (p.37)

### REFERENCE

- ▶ *Smith Creek Comprehensive Development Plan (2020)*

# C4 MOUNT BOUCHERIE TRAILS

Consider opportunities to support ongoing management of trails on Mount Boucherie.

<p><b>ANTICIPATED TRAIL TYPES</b></p>	 <p>Nature Trail</p>	<p><b>ANTICIPATED TRAIL RATINGS</b></p>	 <p>Moderate</p>	 <p>Difficult</p>
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### BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

- ▶ On Mount Boucherie, the City owns and manages:
  - » Mount Boucherie Park, which includes the west summit and west and south slopes of the mountain. Formalized trails, including Flint Man, Boucherie Rush, and Andesite Grinder are within the park.
  - » Eain Lamont Park, a large natural area on the east side of Mount Boucherie with trailhead access.
  - » Vineyard View Park on the south side of the mountain with trailhead access and trail connections.
  - » Mount Boucherie Community Centre and Arenas at the base of the north side of the mountain, where people access the informal Crown trails.
  - » Four trailheads: Darroch Park, East Boundary Road, Cabernet Way, and Eain Lamont Park.
- ▶ Most of the remaining summit and slopes are Crown lands with informal trails that are not maintained.
- ▶ Visitors often explore both Mount Boucherie Park and Crown land trails and there is public interest in continued preservation of natural areas and ongoing recreational access, as well as potential improvements for maintenance and management.
- ▶ Because part of the trails network is outside the City’s municipal parkland area, collaboration would be needed with the province and partners to consider trails management in these areas.
- ▶ Extensive new trail development on Mount Boucherie is not anticipated; however, opportunities to enhance existing recreational trails could include:
  - » Alignment improvements for Andesite Grinder trail.
  - » Continued development of connections and access from surrounding development into the trails network.
  - » Consideration for formalizing a loop that includes trails within City parks, Crown land trails, and improved connectivity between them.
  - » Trail restoration and mitigation of trail braiding through trail management.

# CAPITAL PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS



Information is for planning purposes only. Lines indicated are not verified and should not be interpreted as a literal representation of existing conditions.

ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	PARTIES	RESOURCING
C4.1 Undertake re-routing and improvements on Andesite Grinder Trail (City owned) on Mount Boucherie.	△ SHORT	Parks	\$ <\$50K
C4.2 Engage with the Province and partners regarding ongoing management of the informal trails on Mount Boucherie.	▷ MEDIUM	Parks Prov. WFN	👤 Staff Time
C4.3 If agreements are reached supporting ongoing management of the informal trails on Mount Boucherie, consider a new trailhead and formalized connections to Mount Boucherie Community Centre.	▽ LONG	Parks	\$\$ \$50-\$100K
C4.4 Continue maintenance, improvements, and management of Mount Boucherie Trails to limit trail braiding and address damages.	⊖ ONGOING	Parks	\$ <\$50K/year 👥 Staff Increase

## RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ P2 Asset Management & Resourcing (p.37)

## REFERENCE

- ▶ Parks Master Plan (2024)

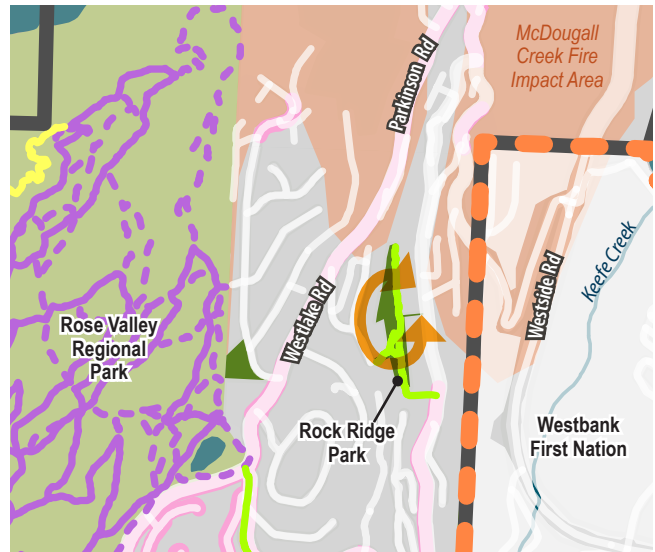
# C5 ROCK RIDGE PARK TRAILS

As development continues in the Rose Valley neighbourhood, formalize trails leading from the existing undeveloped parkland in Rock Ridge Park.


<p><b>ANTICIPATED TRAIL TYPES</b></p>	 <p>Nature Trail</p>	<p><b>ANTICIPATED TRAIL RATINGS</b></p>	 <p>Moderate</p>
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## BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

- ▶ Rock Ridge Park is undeveloped parkland used by the community for walking/hiking, dog walking, and nature appreciation.
- ▶ Community residents have requested that this area be formalized for recreational use.
- ▶ Active community volunteer groups have expressed interest in participating in the construction of trails and a staircase.
- ▶ The City's Channel Recovery Project in 2023 included the reconstruction of approximately 250 metres of degraded channel bed and banks damaged by flooding in 2017. Work to mitigate flood risks included the removal of debris and resulted in the removal of the previous walkway.



Information is for planning purposes only. Lines indicated are not verified and should not be interpreted as a literal representation of existing conditions.

ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	PARTIES	RESOURCING
C5.1 Formalize trails leading from the existing undeveloped parkland in Rock Ridge Park.	△ SHORT	Parks	<p>\$ &lt;\$50K</p>  <p>Staff Increase</p>

## RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ P2 Asset Management & Resourcing (p.37)

## REFERENCE

- ▶ Official Community Plan (2023)
- ▶ Parks Master Plan (2024)

# CAPITAL PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS



## C6 OTHER RECREATIONAL TRAIL PROJECTS

Continue to add linkages within existing or future parks or other locations that help fill gaps and make connections in the recreational trails network.

<p><b>ANTICIPATED TRAIL TYPES</b></p>	 Narrow Multi-use	 Nature Trail	<p><b>ANTICIPATED TRAIL RATINGS</b></p>	 Easy	 Moderate
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### BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

- ▶ Community input identified an interest for increasing access points into existing trails networks and in park spaces throughout the community.
- ▶ Typically smaller in size, these routes could be added as new subdivisions are developed or through regular City investment in existing parks or other public lands.
- ▶ These routes could be identified through the inventory work developed as part of the *Parks & Recreational Trails Asset Management Plan* (see P2), through ongoing operational and maintenance reviews, and from community input.

ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	PARTIES	RESOURCING
C6.1 As part of the <i>Parks &amp; Recreational Trails Asset Management Plan</i> (see P2), develop and maintain a working list of potential new linkages. Following the work of the inventory, develop a prioritized list of minor recreational trail additions.	▽ LONG	Parks	 Staff Increase
C6.2 Undertake development of recreational trail linkages to complete gaps in the network based on priority areas identified.	↻ ONGOING	Parks	<b>\$/year</b> <\$50K/year
C6.3 Review all new subdivision proposals to identify opportunities for off-road trails linkages within new development areas.	↻ ONGOING	Parks Dev. Services	 Staff Time

### RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ P2 Asset Management & Resourcing (p.37)

### REFERENCE

- ▶ Official Community Plan (2023)
- ▶ Parks Master Plan (2024)





# C7 SUPPORT FOR CROWN LAND TRAIL INITIATIVES

Continue to support others interested in seeking authorizations to manage trails within Crown land areas.

<p><b>ANTICIPATED TRAIL TYPES</b></p>	 Nature Trail	 Mountain Bike Trails	<p><b>ANTICIPATED TRAIL RATINGS</b></p>	 Moderate	 Difficult
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### BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

- ▶ The Crown land trails networks in the hillsides above West Kelowna are a valued recreational amenity.
- ▶ Since the *2013 Recreational Trails Master Plan*, Recreation Sites and Trails BC have authorized the Smith Creek and Rose Valley Recreational Trails networks. These networks are operated by the West Kelowna Trail Crew Society (Society), a non-profit organization that advocates for mountain biking and supports maintenance and management within the authorized area.
- ▶ The City of West Kelowna plays a supporting role through contributions to the Society and providing support for trailheads and signage.
- ▶ Through engagement, participants identified several informal networks that are well-used in the area, including:
  - » McDougall Rim Trails
  - » Carrot Mountain Trails
  - » Powers Creek Trails
  - » Drought Mountain Trails
- ▶ While the City's recreational trails efforts will focus on areas within the City's growth boundary, supporting others interested in advancing Crown land trail initiatives outside the City's growth boundary may warrant consideration.

ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	PARTIES	RESOURCING
C7.1 Consider opportunities to support others in processes to authorize key existing informal Crown land trails.	↻ ONGOING	Parks Prov. Volunteers	 Support to Others
C7.2 Continue to provide public information about authorized trails networks that are managed by others.	↻ ONGOING	Parks Comms.	 Staff Time

### RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ *M5 Volunteers & Organizations (p.57)*

### REFERENCE

- ▶ *Recreational Trails Master Plan Section 2.2.4 Trails On Crown Land (p.18)*

# CAPITAL PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

## C8 SUPPORT FOR PARTNER TRAIL INITIATIVES

Continue to support partners interested in developing and managing recreational trails that benefit West Kelowna residents.

**ANTICIPATED TRAIL TYPES**



Major Multi-use



Narrow Multi-use



Nature Trail



Mountain Bike Trails

**ANTICIPATED TRAIL RATINGS**



Easy





Moderate



Difficult

### BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

- ▶ West Kelowna residents have access to trails that are owned and managed by partners and neighbours including the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO), Westbank First Nation, neighbouring municipalities, School District 23, and non-profit organizations.
- ▶ Community input indicates a desire for enhanced linkages into existing networks.
- ▶ Coordination with others who manage these assets supports recreational trails connectivity in the City as well as across the region.
- ▶ Key areas of interest identified by participants in this process include:
  - » An enhanced connection between the Glenrosa and Smith Creek neighbourhoods through Glen Canyon.
  - » A continuous connection through Glen Canyon from the upper Glen Canyon Regional Park to Gellatly Bay.
  - » Waterfront lands (adjacent to Shannon Lake and along Okanagan Lake).

ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	PARTIES	RESOURCING
C8.1 Support implementation of connections to trails managed by others where they intersect with the City's recreational trails network.	🔄 ONGOING	Parks RDCO WFN	 Support to Others
C8.2 Participate in collaborations with partners that have trails connectivity interests to share information and coordinate with goals of achieving an integrated recreational trails network.	🔄 ONGOING	Parks RDCO WFN SD23 Others	 Staff Time

### RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ *M5 Volunteers & Organizations (p.57)*

### REFERENCE

- ▶ *Recreational Trails Master Plan Section 2.2 Existing Trails System (p.15)*
- ▶ *Council's Strategic Priorities (2022-2026)*
- ▶ *Official Community Plan (2023)*

## 4.3 Action Summary Tables

The **Action Summary Tables** in this section provide a categorized list of recommended actions for West Kelowna’s recreational trails network. This summary is based on detailed directions outlined in the previous *Section 4.2 Detailed Recommendations*.

The Implementation Summary Tables in this section are categorized by timeframe:




- ▶ **Short-term** (one- to five-year timeframe)
- ▶ **Medium-term** (six- to ten-year timeframe)
- ▶ **Long-term** (over a ten-year timeframe)
- ▶ **Ongoing** (No defined timeframe, ongoing)

Each year staff should review recommended actions, consider inflation or other cost impacts, and prepare strategies for funding and implementing priority projects. All the recommended actions in the Plan are important, and should opportunity arise, Council consideration to complete a project sooner than its suggested timeframe may be warranted.

### TABLE COMPONENTS

- ▶ **REF#:** Each recommendation in the Implementation Summary Tables is referenced with a corresponding number. This reference guides the reader to the detailed recommendation (e.g., P2.2 correlates to Recommendation #P2, Action #2).
- ▶ **RECOMMENDED ACTION:** A brief description of the action. The reference number can be used to cross-reference the action for additional detail.
- ▶ **RESOURCING:** An estimated budget range for planning purposes (for projects with capital budget requirements). Where capital budget is not anticipated, “Staff Time” or other costs are noted.

The legend of budget symbols are as follows:

- » \$ = <\$50,000
- » \$\$ = \$50,000 - \$100,000
- » \$\$\$ = \$100,000 - \$250,000
- » \$\$\$\$ = \$250,000 - \$500,000
- »  = Staff Time (existing capacity)
- »  = Staff Increase
- »  = Support to Others






- ▶ **OTHER PLANS:** Other plans that support and/ or are aligned with the identified action.
- ▶ **POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES:** Potential funding strategies discussed in Section 5.2 *Funding Strategies* that may warrant consideration when implementing the action. It should be recognized that some actions may be contingent on alternative funding sources and would be undertaken only when funding has been secured.

### 4.3.1 SHORT-TERM ACTIONS (2024-2028)

Short-term actions were prioritized due to:

- ▶ Garnering significant input during the engagement process;
- ▶ Potential to have high positive impact on the trails system in West Kelowna, linking key destinations and/or filling gaps;
- ▶ Potential to be affected by change/development in the near future including linkages at risk of being lost;
- ▶ Need for completion as a first step in a phased implementation process; and/or
- ▶ Opportunity or funding that currently exists to support implementation.

Table 5: Short-Term Actions Implementation Summary

REF #	RECOMMENDED ACTION	RESOURCING	IDENTIFIED IN OTHER PLANS?	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>P1 Recreational Trails Scope (p.36)</b>				
P1.1	Update City procedures to continue to clarify the active transportation and recreational trails purview.	 Staff Time	2024 Transportation Master Plan	Departmental Coordination
<b>P2 Asset Management &amp; Resourcing (p.37)</b>				
P2.1	Establish a Recreational Trails operational budget line item specific to this service.	 Staff Time		-
P2.2	Consider a staff position specific to operation and management of recreational trails.	 \$50-\$100K/year  Staff Increase		Municipal Taxation
P2.3	Undertake a comprehensive baseline inventory for recreational trails to inform the Parks & Recreational Trails Asset Management Plan.	 \$50-\$100K	Corporate Asset Mgmt. Plan	Municipal Taxation, Grant Funding
P2.4	Incorporate recreational trails as part of an initial Parks & Recreational Trails Asset Management Plan (refer to the Parks Master Plan, Q5.2).	Refer to Parks Master Plan	2024 Parks Master Plan	Departmental Coordination
P2.5	Based on Parks & Recreational Trails Asset Management Plan outcomes, review and adjust annual recreational trails budgets.	<b>TBD</b> based on Asset Mgmt Plan		Municipal Taxation
<b>P4 Parks &amp; Recreational Trails Guidelines (p.41)</b>				
P4.1	Incorporate updated recreational trails guidelines within the West Kelowna Parks & Recreational Trails Design Guidelines.	Refer to Parks Master Plan	2024 Parks Master Plan	Municipal Taxation

REF #	RECOMMENDED ACTION	RESOURCING	IDENTIFIED IN OTHER PLANS?	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>M2 Trail Maintenance (p.52)</b>				
M2.1	Assign funding and staffing to support ongoing monitoring and maintenance activities for the recreational trails network.	 Staff Increase \$\$\$ \$100-\$250K/ year	2024 Parks Master Plan	Municipal Taxation
<b>M5 Volunteers &amp; Organizations (p.57)</b>				
M5.1	Include consideration for recreational trails volunteer opportunities within an overall parks volunteer plan/program.	Refer to Parks Master Plan	2024 Parks Master Plan	Municipal Taxation, Partnerships, Departmental Coordination
M5.2	Meet with SD23 to discuss current program use of the recreational trails network and identify opportunities for potential collaborations.	 Staff Increase		Partnerships
<b>C4 Mount Boucherie Trails (p.63)</b>				
C4.1	Undertake re-routing and improvements on Andesite Grinder Trail (City owned) on Mount Boucherie.	\$ <\$50K		Municipal Taxation
<b>C5 Rock Ridge Park Trails (p.65)</b>				
C5.1	Formalize trails leading from the existing undeveloped parkland in Rock Ridge Park.	\$ <\$50K  Staff Increase	2024 Parks Master Plan OCP	Municipal Taxation, Grant Funding, Departmental Coordination




## 4.3.2 MEDIUM-TERM ACTIONS (2029-2033)

Medium-term actions were prioritized due to:

- ▶ Garnering significant input during the engagement process;
- ▶ Potential to require more extensive design, planning, and accumulation of funding resources prior to completion than short-term recommendations;
- ▶ Not likely at risk of being compromised due to change/development in the immediate future, but should be monitored;
- ▶ Future land development in these areas may support trail development; and/or
- ▶ Potential for funding to be available in the medium-term to implement the project.

Medium-term actions may warrant consideration for earlier completion if opportunity or funding permit.

Table 6: Medium-Term Actions Implementation Summary

REF #	RECOMMENDED ACTION	RESOURCING	IDENTIFIED OTHER PLANS?	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>P3 Trails on Private Lands (p.39)</b>				
P3.2	Research urban agricultural trail precedents and practices including Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)/Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) permissions to consider if and how such trails could exist in West Kelowna and the City's potential role(s).	 Staff Time		-
<b>P6 Wayfinding &amp; Signage (p.44)</b>				
P6.2	Develop a West Kelowna trails digital navigation tool.	<b>\$\$\$</b> \$100-\$250K		Municipal Taxation, Grant Funding
P6.4	Develop an updated trails map that could be incorporated into wayfinding kiosks, signage, and print information.	<b>\$\$</b> \$50-\$100K  Staff Increase		Municipal Taxation
<b>M4 Pets on Trails (p.56)</b>				
M4.1	Seek to pilot one designated dog off-leash trail within the recreational trails network. Monitor trail use and function.	<b>\$</b> <\$50K	2024 Parks Master Plan	Municipal Taxation
<b>C4 Mount Boucherie Trails (p.63)</b>				
C4.2	Engage with the Province and partners regarding ongoing management of the informal trails on Mount Boucherie.	 Staff Time	2024 Parks Master Plan	Partnerships






### 4.3.3 LONG-TERM ACTIONS (beyond 2033)

Long-term actions are:

- ▶ Identified as desirable but considered lower priority;
- ▶ Require longer range planning as well as longer-term accumulation of funding resources; and/or
- ▶ Not at the risk of being compromised due to change/development in the short-term or medium term, but should be monitored.

Long-term actions may warrant consideration for earlier completion if opportunity or funding permit. It is anticipated the *Recreational Trails Master Plan* will be updated in the long-term to review accomplishments to date and realign outstanding priorities with the needs of the community at that time.






Table 7: Long-Term Actions Implementation Summary

REF #	RECOMMENDED ACTION	RESOURCING	IDENTIFIED OTHER PLANS?	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>M2 Trail Maintenance (p.52)</b>				
M2.2	Following from the Parks & Recreational Trails Asset Management Plan (see P2 and Parks Master Plan), develop a detailed Trails Monitoring & Maintenance Program that categorizes recreational trails by trail type (i.e., major multi-use, narrow multi-use, nature trail) and use, and assigns expected monitoring and maintenance tasks and frequencies.	 Staff Increase  \$50-\$100K	2013 Rec. Trails Master Plan	Municipal Taxation
<b>M3 Trail Use Guidelines &amp; Codes of Conduct (p.54)</b>				
M3.1	Establish trail use guidelines and code of conduct information for the different trail types within the recreational trails network and make this information available via the City website, Recreation Guide, and other typical communications materials.	 Staff Increase	2013 Rec. Trails Master Plan	Municipal Taxation, Partnerships
<b>C4 Mount Boucherie Trails (p.63)</b>				
C4.3	If agreements are reached supporting ongoing management of the informal trails on Mount Boucherie, consider a new trailhead and formalized connections to Mount Boucherie Community Centre.	 \$50-\$100K	2024 Parks Master Plan	Municipal Taxation, Grant Funding, Partnerships
<b>C6 Other Recreational Trail Projects (p.66)</b>				
C6.1	As part of the Parks & Recreational Trails Asset Management Plan (see P2), develop and maintain a working list of potential new linkages. Following the work of the inventory, develop a prioritized list of minor recreational trail additions.	 Staff Increase	2024 Parks Master Plan	Municipal Taxation






### 4.3.4 ASSET MANAGEMENT ACTIONS (ongoing)










Asset management actions include investments that are recommended for regular capital investment and ongoing operational projects for the life of the Plan.

Table 8: Asset Management Implementation Summary

REF #	RECOMMENDED ACTION	RESOURCING	IDENTIFIED OTHER PLANS?	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>P1 Recreational Trails Scope (p.36)</b>				
P1.2	Conduct a regular meeting of City staff responsible for implementing the Transportation Master Plan and Recreational Trails Master Plan to review respective priority projects, identify synergies, and coordinate delivery of integrated network improvements.	 Staff Increase		Departmental Coordination
<b>P2 Asset Management &amp; Resourcing (p.37)</b>				
P2.6	Undertake regular reviews/updates of the Parks & Recreational Trails Asset Management Plan (e.g., every 3-5 years).	 Staff Increase		Municipal Taxation
<b>P3 Trails on Private Lands (p.39)</b>				
P3.1	Where landowners express interest/willingness to permit public access through private lands, collaborate with the landowner to determine appropriate agreement arrangements and, where needed, address issues around liability, management, and responsibilities.	 Staff Time		Partnerships
<b>P4 Parks &amp; Recreational Trails Guidelines (p.41)</b>				
P4.2	Provide the updated Parks & Recreational Trails Design Guidelines to all parties involved in projects that will be ultimately maintained by Parks.	 Staff Time	2024 Parks Master Plan	-
<b>P5 Trailheads (p.42)</b>				
P5.2	Target development and/or upgrade of an average of one trailhead per year (with associated development and operational increases) to enhance navigation and use of the network.	<b>\$-\$\$\$\$/year</b> depending on scale and amenities  Staff Increase		Municipal Taxation, Grant Funding, DCCs, Other Development-Related Funding, Donations & Bequests

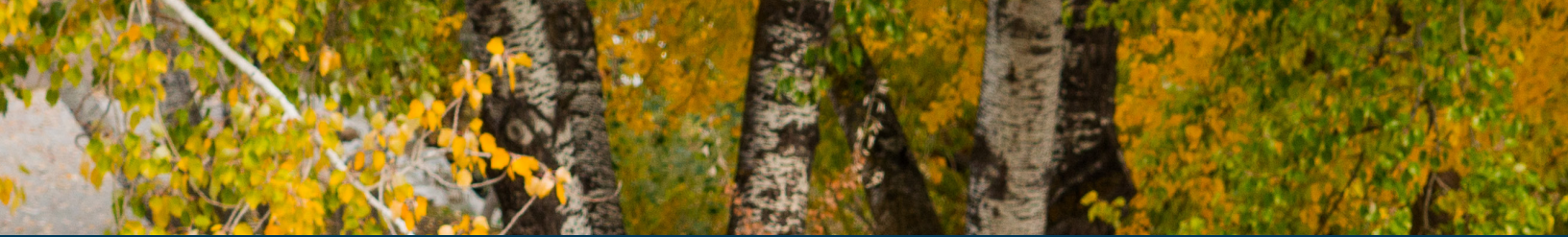


REF #	RECOMMENDED ACTION	RESOURCING	IDENTIFIED OTHER PLANS?	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>P6 Wayfinding &amp; Signage (p.44)</b>				
P6.5	Complete priority signage additions or upgrades on an annual basis.	\$/year <\$50K/year  Staff Increase		Municipal Taxation, Other Development-Related Funding
P6.6	Continue to name major trails to assist in recognition following the guidance of the Parks Naming Policy.	 Staff Time	Park Naming Policy	-
<b>P7 Trail Rating &amp; Accessibility (p.46)</b>				
P7.4	Continue to engage with non-profit organizations to seek opportunities to improve accessibility on select trails.	 Staff Time	2024 Parks Master Plan OCP	Partnerships
<b>P8 Trail Safety &amp; Security (p.47)</b>				
P8.2	Post information about potential risks in the network through online information and signage as they are identified following Municipal Insurance Association of British Columbia (MIABC) recommendations.	 Staff Time		-
<b>M3 Trail Use Guidelines &amp; Codes of Conduct (p.54)</b>				
M3.3	Continue to monitor emerging trends in trail user technologies (e.g., e-assist, e-bikes, etc.) and research and consider policy updates accordingly.	 Staff Time		-
<b>C1 Goats Peak Trails Network (p.60)</b>				
C1.1	Require recreational trails and amenities be completed as development of the Goats Peak neighbourhood progresses and maintain the trails once they are added to the network in compliance with standards and guidelines.	 Staff Increase (upon development)	2017 Goats Peak Comprehensive Development Plan	Municipal Taxation, DCCs, Subdivision, Other Development-Related Funding
<b>C2 Waterfront Trail (p.61)</b>				
C2.1	Continue to collaborate on opportunities for waterfront trail development.	 Staff Time	2024 Trans. Master Plan	Municipal Taxation, Grants, Parcel Tax
C2.2	Allocate staff time to support waterfront trail initiatives.	 Staff Increase	2024 Trans. Master Plan	Municipal Taxation, Departmental Coordination

REF #	RECOMMENDED ACTION	RESOURCING	IDENTIFIED OTHER PLANS?	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>C3 Flume Trail (p.62)</b>				
C3.1	Require recreational trails and amenities to be completed as development of the Smith Creek neighbourhood progresses and maintain the trails once they are added to the network.	 Staff Increase (upon development)	2020 Smith Creek Comprehensive Development Plan	Municipal Taxation, DCCs, Subdivision, Other Development-Related Funding
C3.2	Ensure future development plans include multiple access points between the street network and the Flume Trail in the Smith Creek neighbourhood.	 Staff Time		Departmental Coordination
<b>C4 Mount Boucherie Trails (p.63)</b>				
C4.4	Continue maintenance, improvements, and management of Mount Boucherie Trails to limit trail braiding and address damages.	 <\$50K/year  Staff Increase		Municipal Taxation, Partnerships
<b>C6 Other Recreational Trail Projects (p.66)</b>				
C6.2	Undertake development of recreational trail linkages to complete gaps in the network based on priority areas identified.	<b>\$/year</b> <\$50K/year		Municipal Taxation, Grants, DCCs, Subdivision
C6.3	Review all new subdivision proposals to identify opportunities for off-road trails linkages within new development areas.	 Staff Time	OCP Subdivision Bylaw	Subdivision, Other Development-Related Funding
<b>C7 Support for Crown Land Trail Initiatives (p.67)</b>				
C7.1	Consider opportunities to support others in processes to authorize key existing informal Crown land trails.	 Support to Others		Partnerships
C7.2	Continue to provide public information about authorized trails networks that are managed by others.	 Staff Time		-
<b>C8 Support for Partner Trail Initiatives (p.68)</b>				
C8.1	Support implementation of connections to trails managed by others where they intersect with the City's recreational trails network.	 Support to Others		Partnerships
C8.2	Participate in collaborations with partners that have trails connectivity interests to share information and coordinate with goals of achieving an integrated recreational trails network.	 Staff Time		Partnerships



Wildflowers along the trails network



Gellatly Bay Recreation Corridor

# 5.0 IMPLEMENTATION

## 5.1 Future Trail Development

Continuing to expand the network will require new connections. The following are key mechanisms for implementing recreational trails updates and expansion.

### ON CITY LAND

In most cases, recreational trails will be developed on City lands including parks, rights-of-way, or other public lands. Tools for developing trails on City lands include:

- ▶ Using capital funds for land acquisition and/or trail construction on existing lands as determined through the City's annual priority setting.
- ▶ Using other funding sources outlined in Section 5.2 *Funding Strategies* for trail construction.
- ▶ Developing trails as a part of other utility, street network, parks improvement, wildfire fuel management, or active transportation projects. Recreational trails should be a key consideration for planning of all projects, especially those that could support connectivity.

### ON CROWN LAND OR PARTNER LAND

While these areas will typically be beyond the City's scope, opportunities may exist to support or partner on key projects. Key tools include:

- ▶ Establishing agreements, supporting others in establishing agreements, or creating partnerships for planning, construction, and/or managing linkages that bring benefits to the recreational trails network.

### ON PRIVATE LAND

In some cases, informal trails or desire lines cross private land and there may be opportunities to formalize access. Key tools for securing trail access on private lands include:

- ▶ Acquisition through subdivision and development approval processes and agreements with developers to construct new trails as part of new neighbourhood areas.
- ▶ Statutory right-of-way agreements with willing landowners to allow trail access for public use while managing landowner liability.
- ▶ Preservation of lands through donations, land preservation agreements, or conservation covenants by willing landowners. Federal and provincial tax laws allow individuals and corporations to deduct from taxable income for gifts of property in specific circumstances, including environmental protection.
- ▶ Tax relief for private landowners who accept public use of trails on their land. This is a mechanism granted by some municipalities and would need to be negotiated with the landowner and approved by Council.
- ▶ Where a corridor is or can be routed along one edge of a private property, it may be possible for the City to buy property from a willing seller, subdivide the corridor, and sell the remainder of the property.

## 5.2 Funding Strategies

Recreational trails development will be ongoing, with progress linked to available resources. This section outlines potential funding sources and strategies that may warrant consideration.

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### MUNICIPAL TAXATION

The City's municipal taxation is funded primarily through property tax. It is the principle funding source for community services, including infrastructure development like recreational trails. Municipal taxation is shared among the many different municipal services the City provides and priorities are defined by Council Strategic Priorities, City plans, life-cycle demands, and more.

### GRANT FUNDING

The Province of BC, Government of Canada, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and other government and non-government organizations offer grants for capital or planning projects. Trails projects are often well-positioned to attract funds related to parks and recreation, multi-modal transportation, public infrastructure, environment, sustainability initiatives, tourism, and more. However, sufficient staff time must be dedicated to support applications. Examples of current (2024) grant programs that could be accessed for recreational trails include:

- ▶ Canada Community-Building Fund (formerly Gas Tax fund) that provides long-term funding to local governments for investment in infrastructure and capacity building projects.
- ▶ The Outdoor Recreation Fund of BC (starting in 2024) will support grants for community-based initiatives that create and shape meaningful outdoor recreational and nature-based experiences.

### DEVELOPMENT COST CHARGES

Development Cost Charges (DCCs) are funds collected by the City from development projects for infrastructure improvements necessitated by community growth. The *Local Government Act* enables municipalities to collect DCCs for parkland acquisition and select improvements to parkland, including trails.

### SUBDIVISION

In accordance with the *Local Government Act*, the City requires a minimum dedication of up to 5% of the site area for parkland which can support some trails; however, the City does not typically accept active transportation routes or trail routes focused on transportation as part of the dedication. The City maintains a *Park Land Acceptance Policy* that outlines criteria for acceptance of parkland.

### OTHER DEVELOPMENT-RELATED FUNDING

Beyond DCCs or park dedication at subdivision, other development-related contributions can generate capital funds for parks infrastructure. The *Local Government Act* enables municipalities to use development-funded tools such as public realm or frontage improvements, Amenity Cost Charges (AACs), density bonusing contributions, or cash-in-lieu of contributions to offset impacts of growth and densification.



## PARCEL TAX

A parcel tax levies a specific charge per selected properties within a community. This tax allows funds for a specific purpose to be raised, without increasing general property taxes. The use of a parcel tax can alleviate public fears that funds raised through general property taxes may not be directed to a specific project and provides a fixed time frame for the implementation of the levy. A parcel tax is typically used for major capital improvement projects (e.g., Waterfront Walkway).

## DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION

The City's various departments have responsibilities and potential projects that may overlap with recreational trails. In particular, major linear infrastructure improvements such as road construction or utility upgrades may provide opportunities for recreational trails development. Projects identified in the *Transportation Master Plan*, *Master Drainage Plan*, *Parks Master Plan*, *Sanitary Sewer Utility Master Plan*, *Water Utility Master Plan*, and other plans should consider recreational trails opportunities.

## DONATIONS & BEQUESTS

Corporations, organizations, and individuals are sometimes willing to contribute assets to the community. An organized donation program can help to attract these opportunities. For example, corporate sponsorships can be sought, along with a method to acknowledge their support. Information on the West Kelowna's website could be updated to further encourage donation and bequest opportunities.

## PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships involve working with other governments, landowners, and local organizations on mutually beneficial projects. Partnerships can provide opportunities for joint capital investment, acquisition, or maintenance/operations where mutual benefits can be realized.

## 5.3 Recreational Trail Costs

Like all infrastructure, building and maintaining recreational trails requires ongoing investment. At the planning phase, estimating helps to assign project budgets and secure funding to complete projects.

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City staff use planning-level estimates for budgeting, phasing, and comparative costing for project planning. Specific costs are clarified through further design development for each project as costs can fluctuate widely depending on economic cycles including inflation adjustments, availability of materials and labour, and site specific conditions.

There are two key cost components for recreational trails:

- ▶ **Capital Costs:** Capital costs reflect the one-time costs to first construct a trail. Building recreational trails typically involves site preparation, grading, and construction of the trail surface, with a base course and drainage features as needed. There may be associated amenities, such as waste and recycling containers, signs, benches, bike racks, and lighting. In select circumstances capital costs may also include land acquisition or costs associated with geotechnical, major grading, or environmental protection/restoration, which can vary greatly depending on trail location and circumstance. In some locations, more infrastructure like bridges may be required.
- ▶ **Management Costs:** Once a trail has been developed, it must be monitored and maintained to support its ongoing integrity. Management costs can include activities such as inspections, minor resurfacing and grading, repairs to amenities and infrastructure, revegetation, emptying waste bins, and other regular activities. In addition, management costs including life-cycle renew or upgrade an asset as it ages over time.



## 5.4 Liability & Risk Management

Using recreational trails comes with inherent risks. Liability and risk management are of concern to governments and private landowners.

Despite potential liabilities and risks, the recreating public continues to demand and support the development of new trails for an ever-increasing diversity of users. While no legislation has emerged to reform this aspect of the legal system, trails (and other amenities such as skate parks, BMX tracks, and bike skills parks) continue to be built and managed effectively with very few lawsuits. There are thousands of kilometres of trails in Canada, providing an extensive recreation opportunity with very low rates of injuries, litigation, and risk.

In BC, the *Occupiers Liability Act* establishes a duty to not create a danger or act with willing disregard for the safety of a person or the integrity of a person's property. The *Occupiers Liability Act* also establishes that a person who enters "recreational trails reasonably marked as such" shall be deemed to have willingly assumed all risks.

The Municipal Insurance Association of British Columbia (MIABC) provides guidance through its Risk Management Program including identification and mitigation of risks on municipal and regional lands. For example, signage can be recommended to minimize risks posed by hidden hazards.

Local governments can use these tools and best practices to manage risks. A risk management program can reduce exposure to loss and potential accidents, injuries, and claims.

The following are some guidelines for risk management:

- ▶ Establish policies, standards, inspection, maintenance programs, and signage that support a safe environment for trail users based on the financial abilities, resources, and service levels of the City. This applies to City trails and trails on private lands where a formal agreement is in place (e.g., easement agreement or right-of-way).
- ▶ Monitor risk management plans and activities and update guidelines and operating policies to continue to be relevant in the face of changing technology, conditions, users, uses, and standards.
- ▶ Work with trail users to recognize the limits on their rights to build trails, since unsanctioned activities can hamper opportunities for legitimate trails.
- ▶ Where trails cross private land and the landowner is willing to permit public use, work with the landowner to establish limitations on liability to the landowner resulting from public use of the lands. This may include indemnification clauses written into agreements saving the landowner harmless from claims related to use of trails. It may also include signs along trails with codes of conduct for trails through private land and notifications about limitations on liability.

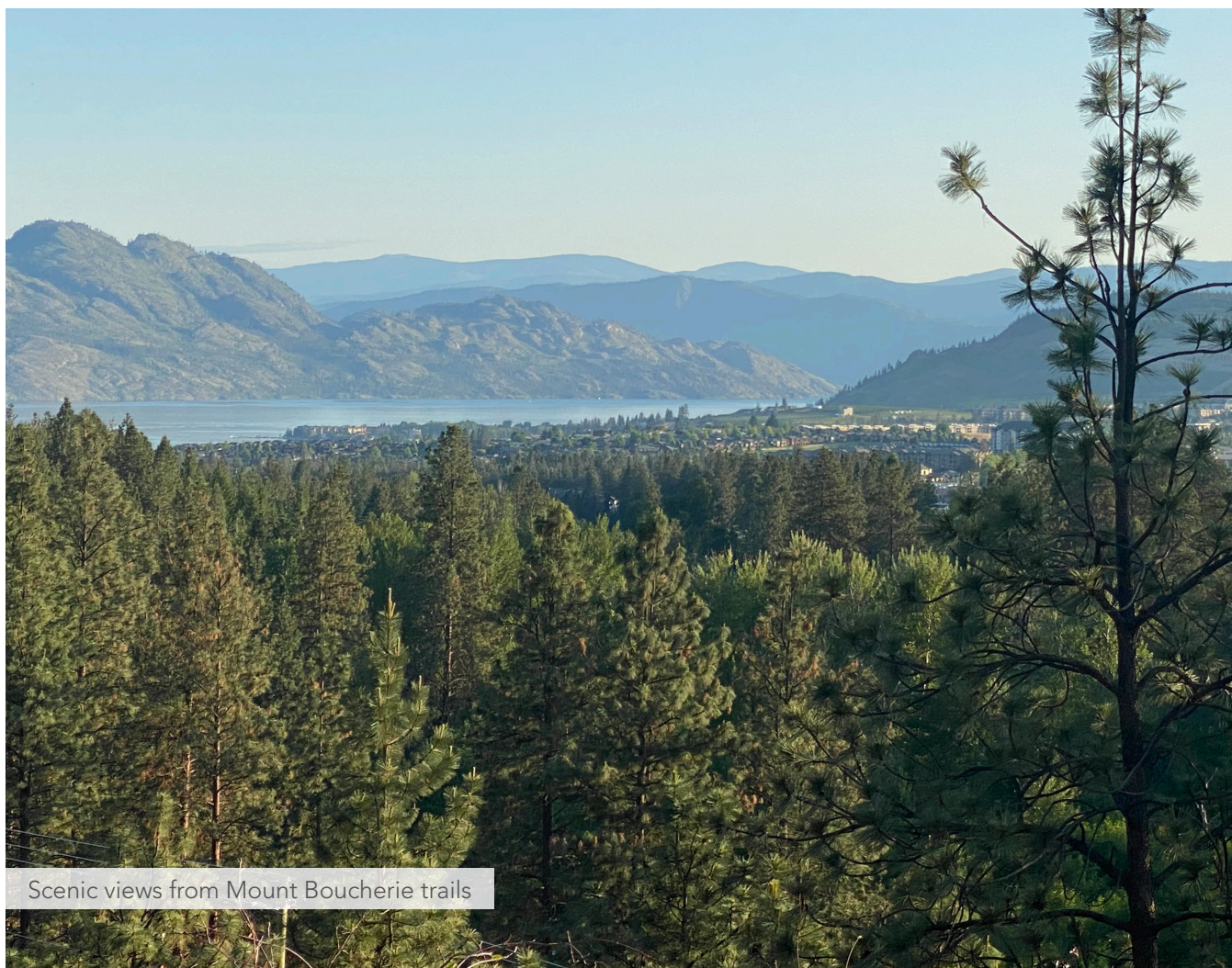
## 5.5 Monitoring & Review

Monitoring and review allow the City and residents to review progress, confirm steps taken, and make adjustments if needed to be responsive to changes within the City.

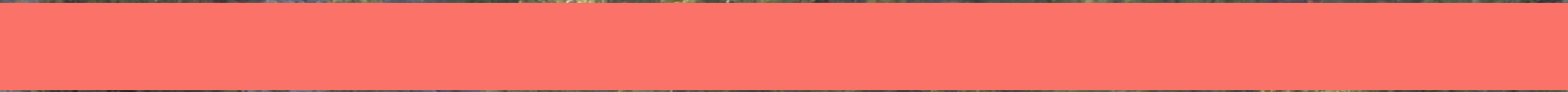
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This *Recreational Trails Master Plan* has been created based on a ten-year planning horizon. It is anticipated that this Plan will be updated after ten years to review accomplishments to date and realign outstanding priorities with the needs of the community at that time to develop goals for the next ten years.

Within that time, the Plan should be monitored on an annual basis to review the recommended strategies and actions. It is important to understand that this Plan is a living document that may be amended to adapt to changing conditions at the discretion of Council.







Eain Lamont Park trailhead

# MAP

## A: EXISTING TRAILS INVENTORY (2023)

# Map Overview

An overview map has been created to support the *Recreational Trails Master Plan*. This map is intended to be used in conjunction with this report to identify the locations of existing trails.

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## **MAPPING NOTES**

- ▶ The information shown on this map is for planning purposes only. Lines indicated are not verified and should not be interpreted as a literal representation of existing conditions.
- ▶ This map shows existing trail connections in the City of West Kelowna. Trails data is based on existing GIS data at the time of plan development. Trail routes will need to be verified.
- ▶ Active transportation routes such as sidewalks and active transportation routes are based on data available at the time of planning and only provide context to recreational trails planning. Refer to the *Transportation Master Plan* for details about all active transportation routes.
- ▶ All linkages and amenities are for master planning purposes only and will be subject to more detailed planning and design prior to implementation.

**LEGEND**

**GENERAL**

- City Boundary
- OCP Growth Boundary
- Lakes
- Rivers & Streams
- Main Roads
- Local Roads
- West Kelowna Park
- RDCO Park
- McDougall Creek Fire Impact Area (2023)

**EXISTING TRAILS**

- West Kelowna Recreational Trail
- West Kelowna Proposed Active Transportation Route\*
- West Kelowna Sidewalk\*
- RDCO Regional Park Trail (Formal)
- RDCO Regional Park Trail (Informal)
- Authorized Crown Land Trail
- Informal Routes

**EXISTING TRAILHEADS**

- Major West Kelowna Trailhead
- Minor West Kelowna Trailhead
- Major Trailhead Managed by Others
- Minor Trailhead Managed by Others

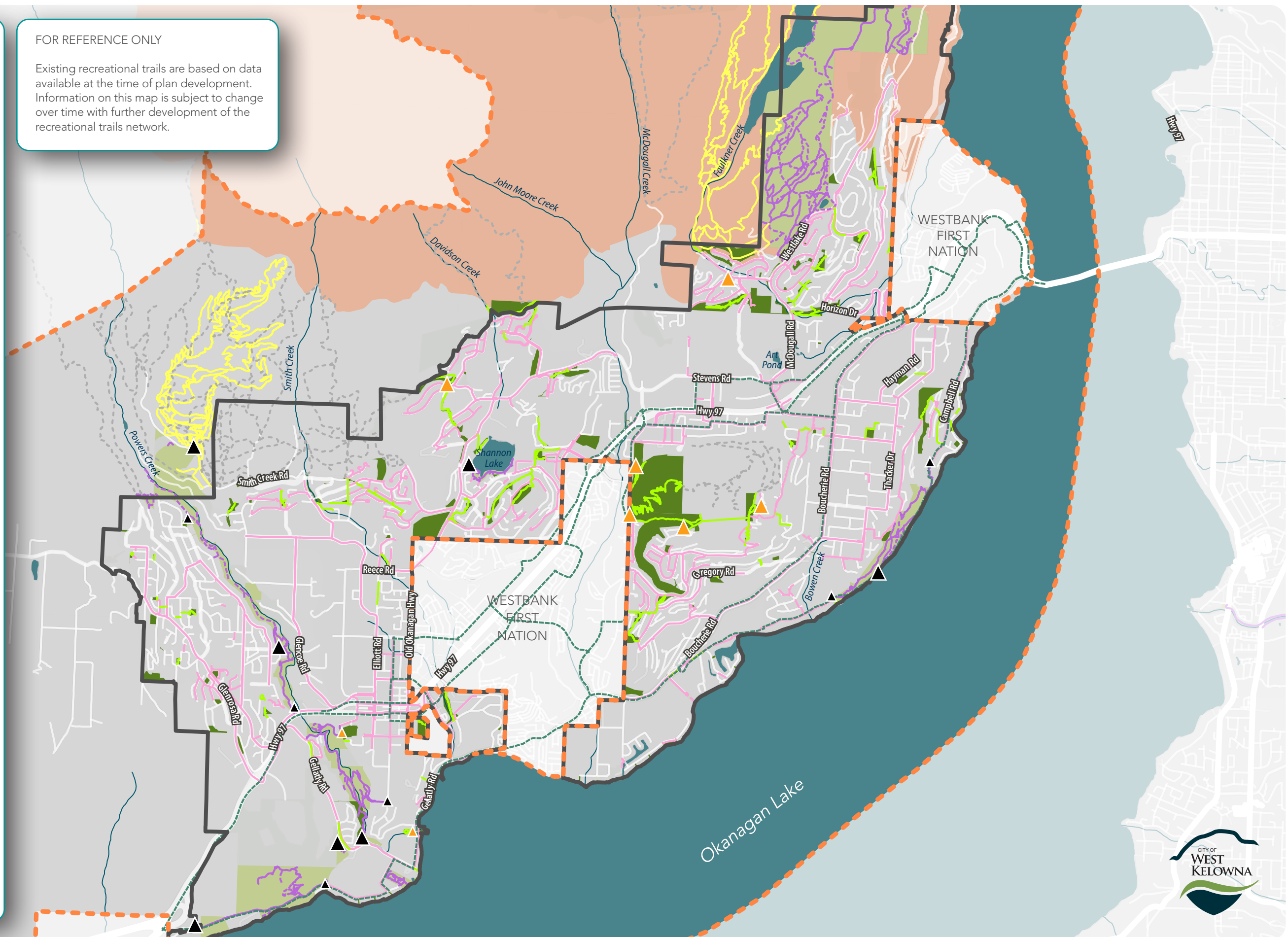
Map created 2024/08/02  
Projection: NAD 83 UTM Zone 11N

\* Active transportation routes including sidewalks include both existing and proposed routes. See the Transportation Master Plan for more details.

Licker Geospatial Consulting

FOR REFERENCE ONLY

Existing recreational trails are based on data available at the time of plan development. Information on this map is subject to change over time with further development of the recreational trails network.



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# APPENDICES

A: TYPICAL TRAIL DESIGN DETAILS (BYLAW NO. 0249)

B: CODE OF CONDUCT EXAMPLES



West Kelowna trails network views

## APPENDIX A:

# TYPICAL TRAIL DESIGN DETAILS (BYLAW NO. 0249)

## Overview

Development of lands within the City of West Kelowna, including recreational trail development, is regulated by the City's Works and Services Bylaw No. 0249 (2018).

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The Bylaw outlines trail types and standard detail drawings for recreational trails including:

- ▶ **Major Multi-Use Trails** - Routes through the community, parks, or waterfront.
- ▶ **Narrow Multi-Use Trails** - Routes that are community or neighborhood connectors, major creek corridors, or major routes through natural areas.
- ▶ **Nature Trails** - Routes within natural areas or corridors through minor creeks.

The Bylaw also outlines standard detail drawings for features that support recreational trails including fencing and signage.

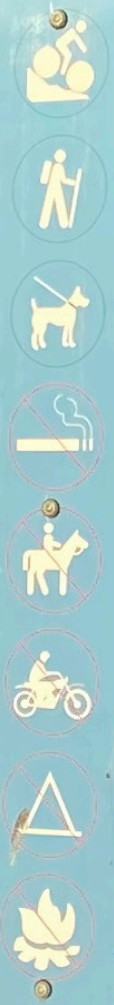
# Mount Boucherie Trails Rules & Regulations

WEST KELOWNA  
**Mount Boucherie Trails**

**Map Legend**

- You Are Here
- Parking

Trail Name	Technical Rating	Distance (km)
Boucherie Rush	■	3.0
Flint Man	●	0.8
Andesito Grinder	◆	1.0
Unmaintained Crown Land Trails	Various	Various



**Trail Information**

All trails are multi-use, two-directional and for recreational use, though some have recommended directions due to grade.

Be aware of your surroundings, and be prepared to yield to mountain bikers or runners.

Use of recreational trails involves the risk of injury. You control the degree of risk you will encounter using the trails and features.

Do not attempt any of the trails or features unless you have sufficient ability and skill to do so safely. Always be in control and within your ability level.

Helmets are recommended for mountain biking. Other protective equipment is highly recommended.

Trails are not recommended for inexperienced bike riders.

Beware of changing conditions on trails and features. It is your responsibility to inspect trails and features before use.

Look uphill and yield to other users when entering a downhill or intersection.

NO unauthorized trail building

**Trail Etiquette:**

**Ride Dirt, Not Mud**  
 Respect other users  
 Pack it in, pack it out

**Stay on the Trail, NO Shortcutting**  
 Do not feed, provoke, or approach wildlife  
 Take only photos, leave nothing but footprints

**Trail Ratings:**



In case of emergency, call **9-1-1**

For all maintenance-related or event inquiries, call the City of West Kelowna at 778-797-1000

MOUNT BOUCHERIE TRAILS

THIS IS A NATURAL PARK



Existing trailhead sign with code of conduct information

## APPENDIX B:

# CODE OF CONDUCT EXAMPLES

Recommendation *M3 Trail Use Guidelines & Codes of Conduct (p.54)* outlines actions to increase code of conduct information for West Kelowna's recreational trails. Below are common code of conduct examples that could be considered when updating West Kelowna's code of conduct resources.

- ▶ Stay on the trail, no shortcutting. Leaving the trail can lead to erosion and destruction of vegetation, especially in environments with sensitive ecosystems.
- ▶ Unauthorized trail building is prohibited.
- ▶ Do not feed, provoke, or approach wildlife.
- ▶ If moving slowly, keep to the right (where trail width permits). Step aside to allow those moving more quickly to pass.
- ▶ In groups, hike single-file and be attentive to other users wishing to pass.
- ▶ When stopping, find a safe place to pull off the trail, not blocking traffic in either direction.
- ▶ Uphill trail users have the right-of-way and choice as to whether to stop when passing.
- ▶ Adopt the "triangle" of trail sharing where hikers, bikers, and equestrian users exist: bikers yield to hikers and horses, hikers yield to horses.
- ▶ Keep conversations at a reasonable volume so as not to disturb other trails users or wildlife.
- ▶ Follow "Leave No Trace" principles and pack out what you pack in.
- ▶ Take only photos, leave nothing but footprints.
- ▶ Bikers are to keep speed under control and sound a warning when approaching other trail users.
- ▶ Users are recommended to use helmets and other protective equipment when using recreational trails, especially when biking.
- ▶ On trails where horses are permitted, if encountering a horse, provide as much room as possible, and when it is safe to pass, provide a verbal warning to the horse rider.
- ▶ Report vandalism. Look for contact information at the trailhead to inform the managing agency of any destruction or management needs you notice.
- ▶ Dog and horse owners are responsible for keeping their animals under control, following rules about on- or off-leash uses.
- ▶ Dog feces creates hazards to humans and the environment. Owners must properly dispose of waste.
- ▶ Be prepared and be safe. Anticipate others being on the trail, familiarize yourself with the route, and tell someone about your plans.
- ▶ Know your limits and exercise caution at all times. Do not attempt any trails or features unless you have sufficient ability and skill to do so safely.
- ▶ Protect the environment and respect wildlife habitat and plant life.
- ▶ Do not trespass on closed trails.

