

Report to Council



Date: April 16, 2018
File: 1840-01
To: City Manager
From: Lindsay Clement, Park and Landscape Planner
Subject: Community for All - Parks and Buildings Assessment

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Park and Landscape Planner dated April 16, 2018, with respect to the Community for All - Parks and Buildings Assessment.

Purpose:

To provide a conclusion to the Community for All - Parks and Buildings Assessment project by way of this report.

Background:

In 2017, as part of City of Kelowna's Community for All Action Plan, City owned parks and buildings were assessed by staff to determine their suitability for people of all ages and abilities. Staff presented preliminary findings to Council in a report dated August 28, 2017, with the intention of completing further analysis on the data and creating recommendations for improvements in the form of a final report.

Staff recently completed the Community for All - Parks and Buildings Assessment Report (Appendix A), which describes the background and intention of the project, stakeholder engagement process, assessment methodology, and trends observed in city parks and buildings pertaining to design for all ages and abilities. The report concludes with a series of recommendations for improvements. Each recommendation is accompanied by a prioritized list of locations to be improved. Costing will be looked at as part of budget request submissions for 2019.

The recommendations will help staff prioritize projects when making grant applications, or when allocating budget to general infrastructure improvements. Staff plan to make a request for on-going operational budget in 2019 to be used towards the improvements outlined in this report.

Additional Opportunities:

City of Kelowna plays an important role in facilitating the creation of age and ability friendly built environments. Through the Community for All Action Plan, the City will share the assessments and methodology with our key project partners, including, the Healthy City Strategy Steering Committee and the Community for All Stakeholder Advisory Committee which include, but is not limited to, Interior Health, Central Okanagan School District, and University of British Columbia - Okanagan. The City will encourage key stakeholders to utilize the assessment methodology and criteria that have been developed during this project for their own properties. Sharing of this information makes it easy for other organizations to complete assessments of their own facilities and highlight areas to improve people's daily experience. Small changes can make a big impact.

People in Motion, another project partner, is a local organization that caters to individuals with mobility challenges. They offer specialized programming ranging from wheelchair basketball to 'Powderhounds' adaptive snow sports. Their website offers resources and information regarding accessibility in Kelowna. Last year, People in Motion received grant funding to update their online Accessibility Guide to include, amongst other things, the findings from the City of Kelowna's parks and buildings assessment. Users are now able to search by a specific park or building to see what facilities and amenities are available to them. A link to the Accessibility Guide is provided on both the City's Parks and Community for All webpages.

Last year, the Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) launched the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification program. This program helps to improve accessibility of the built environment through rating and certification, professional training, and accessibility services. Both public and private organizations may apply to have assessments done, with the intent of becoming 'RHF Accessibility Certified' or 'RHF Accessibility Certified Gold'. The assessment is similar to the LEED rating system for buildings. Once assessed, organizations then qualify for specialized grant funding through RHF which otherwise would not be available to them.

This program is being piloted until 2019, and RHF is offering free assessments to municipalities and select private businesses. Staff have been working with RHF to select a handful of parks and buildings to be assessed through this program. These assessments will take place in September 2018, and will allow the City to apply for additional grant opportunities to complete improvements.

Internal Circulation:

Divisional Director, Infrastructure
Parks and Buildings Planning Manager
Infrastructure Operations Manager
Building Services Manager
Parks Services Manager
Sustainability Coordinator
Senior Project Manager

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:
Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:
Existing Policy:
Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Personnel Implications:
Communications Comments:
Alternate Recommendation:

Submitted by:

L. Clement, Park and Landscape Planner

Approved for inclusion:



A. Newcombe, Divisional Director, Infrastructure

Attachment A - Report to Council - Community for All City Parks and Buildings Assessments

Attachment B - Parks and Buildings Assessment Report

Attachment C - Community for All - Parks and Buildings Assessment

cc: Divisional Director, Infrastructure
Parks and Buildings Planning Manager
Infrastructure Operations Department Manager
Divisional Director, Corporate Strategic Services
Divisional Director, Community Planning & Strategic Investments
Senior Project Manager