

# Report to Council



**Date:** October 1, 2018  
**File:** 1840-10  
**To:** City Manager  
**From:** Park and Landscape Planner  
**Subject:** Interim Parks Access – Poplar Point

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Park and Landscape Planner dated October 1, 2018, to improve access and signage at the existing Poplar Point #1 Beach Access;

AND THAT Council approve the revision to the scope of the Interim Park Access project in the 2018 Financial Plan to include Poplar Point #1 -Beach Access within the works.

## **Purpose:**

To seek Council's approval to amend the scope of the Interim Park Access project in the 2018 Financial Plan to improve access at the existing Poplar Point #1 Beach Access.

## **Background:**

May 7, 2017, Council received the Parks Development Report, a study of underdeveloped, undeveloped and future park sites. The report recognized that the buoyant development market in recent years has allowed the City to pursue a number of significant park acquisitions, while construction of which is now waiting funding in the 10-year Capital Plan. The report outlined several options to improve the rate of parks development, included a recommendation to improve undeveloped or poorly accessible parkland, and specifically waterfront parkland, for public use on an interim basis, until such time when capital funding is available for full development.<sup>1</sup> In a report to Council on Dec 4, 2017 several locations were identified for the Interim Parks Access project, and \$115,000 of funding was subsequently approved in the 2018 Financial Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> City of Kelowna, May 2017. City of Kelowna Parks Development Report – A study of underdeveloped, undeveloped and future park sites. P. 3, 36 and 37.

## **Site Description and Proposed Improvements:**

Poplar Point #1 Beach Access is an existing access close to Knox Mountain Park. It has a generous and pleasant beach waterfront, which is distinctly separated by natural topography from the neighbouring properties. However, the trail head is unsigned and ambiguous, and the trail is in need of improvements.

The property is located at 264 Poplar Point Drive, where the road splits along a lower road. There is a pullout at this location that accommodates approximately four cars. A rough path goes down to the lakeshore, with some steps along it. Some of the steps require replacement, and the trail would benefit from wood cribbing along a steep switchback. Along the lake the property widens out to 92 metres of shoreline facing north. The beach is one of pebbles and small cobbles, many of which are flat and suitable for skipping. Access to neighbouring waterfront properties is restricted by topography. The western edge is controlled by a flat rock outcrop, and the eastern edge is impeded by a bluff with large boulders into the lake. Steep topography provides a vertical separation and vegetated screening between the beach waterfront and the nearest neighbours, which are approximately 13 metres and 22 metres above (254 and 260 Poplar Point Drive respectively).

The beach access is close to the Poplar Point Drive access to the Knox Mountain Park trails, allowing for connectivity between the upland park and the waterfront.

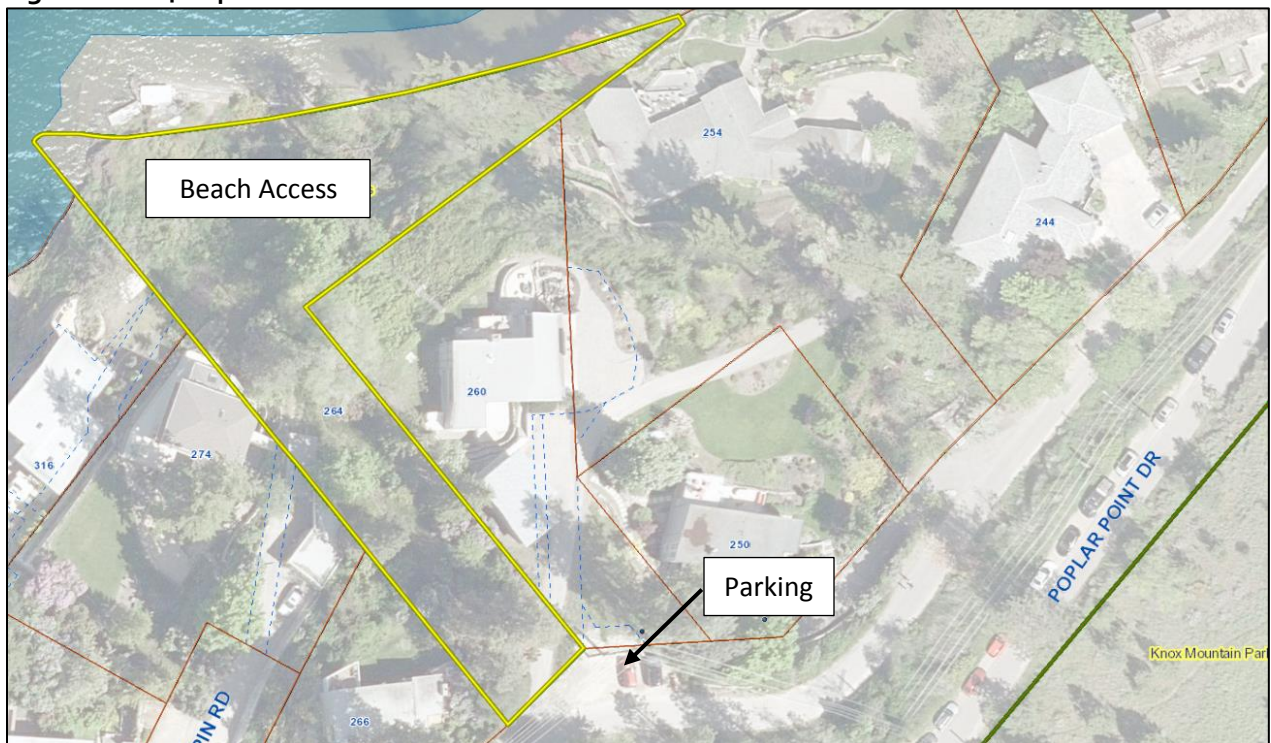
The primary appeal for this beach access is its' natural beauty, therefore the proposed work would be minimal so as not to interfere with this. The anticipated work would include improving the trail and steps, clean-up of the beach, installing a garbage can, select fencing, park signage, and staff coordination. Should Council approve the scope change, neighbouring properties will be consulted before improvements to this existing beach access are made.

Inclusion of this project within the scope will improve the diversity of waterfront access projects across the whole of the City lake frontage, and will improve a delightful asset near the North End and Glenmore neighbourhoods.

Figure 1 – 264 Poplar Point Drive #1 Beach Access



Figure 1 – 264 Poplar Point Drive Beach Access



**Financial/Budgetary Considerations:**

A budget for Interim Park Access was approved in the 2018 Capital Plan. Efficiencies in the other park access projects, such as Bluebird Beach Park, have resulted in some funds available for this project. Much of the trail improvements, fencing and signage will be done based on what remains after the completion of Bluebird Beach Park Access. As such, the proposed works would be accommodated within the existing 2018 budget for the Interim Park Access. No additional funds are requested. With Council's approval, this project will be included in to the existing project.

**Internal Circulation:**

Divisional Director, Infrastructure  
Divisional Director, Corporate Strategic Services  
Infrastructure Operations Department Manager  
Parks Services Manager  
Parking Services Manager  
Infrastructure Administration Manager  
Financial Planning Manager  
Community Engagement Manager

**Considerations not applicable to this report:**

Legal/Statutory Authority:  
Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:  
Existing Policy:  
Financial/Budgetary Considerations:  
Personnel Implications:  
External Agency/Public Comments:  
Communications Comments:  
Alternate Recommendation:

Submitted by:

Melanie Steppuhn, Parks Planner

Reviewed by:

Robert Parlane, Parks & Buildings Planning Manager

**Approved for inclusion:**



Alan Newcombe, Divisional Director, Infrastructure

**Attachment 1 - Interim Parks Access - Poplar Point Presentation**

cc: Deputy City Manager  
Divisional Director, Infrastructure  
Divisional Director, Community Planning & Strategic Investments  
Divisional Director, Corporate Strategic Services  
Divisional Director, Financial Services



## Appendix 1 – Site Photographs

Photo 1. View looking east



Photo 2. View looking west





Photo 3. View down existing trail



Photo 4. View looking up trail from beach





Photo 5. View looking up existing steps

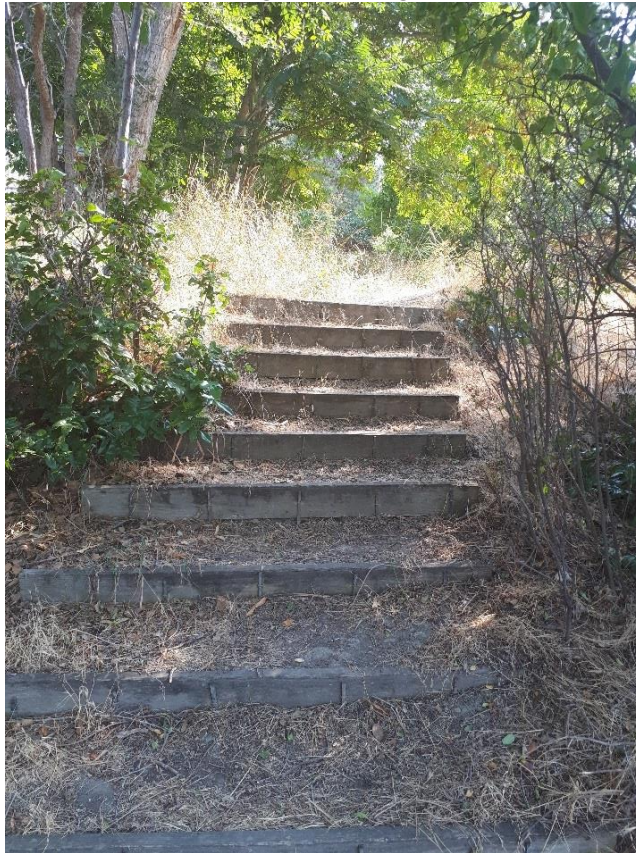


Photo 6. View looking north

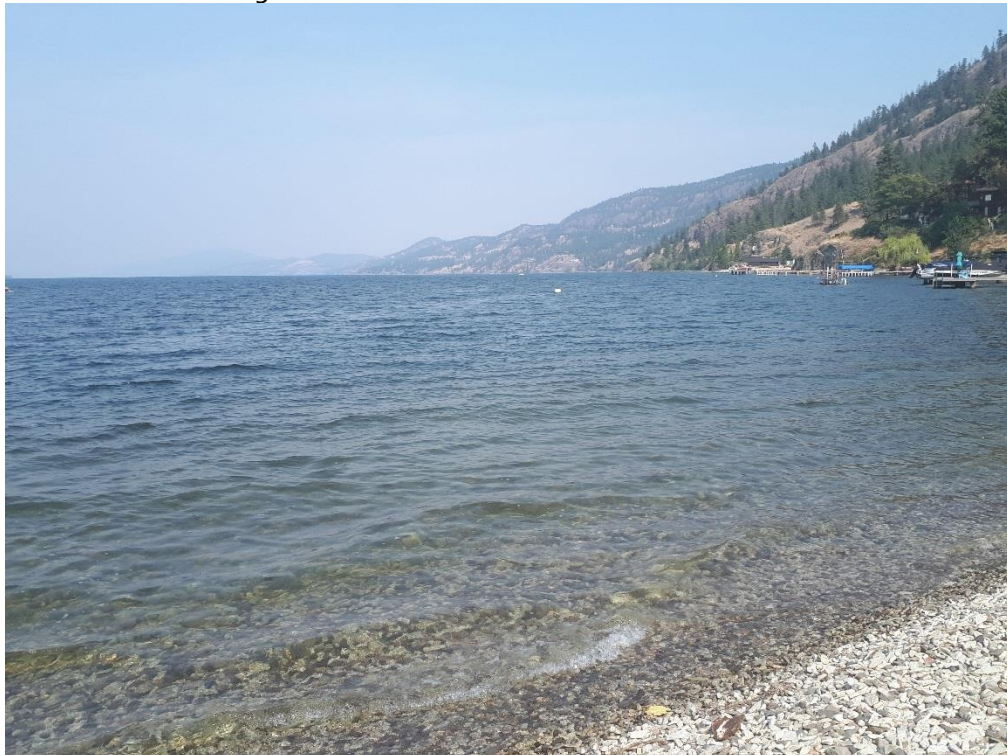




Photo 7. Parking area at Poplar Point Drive



Photo 8. View looking east

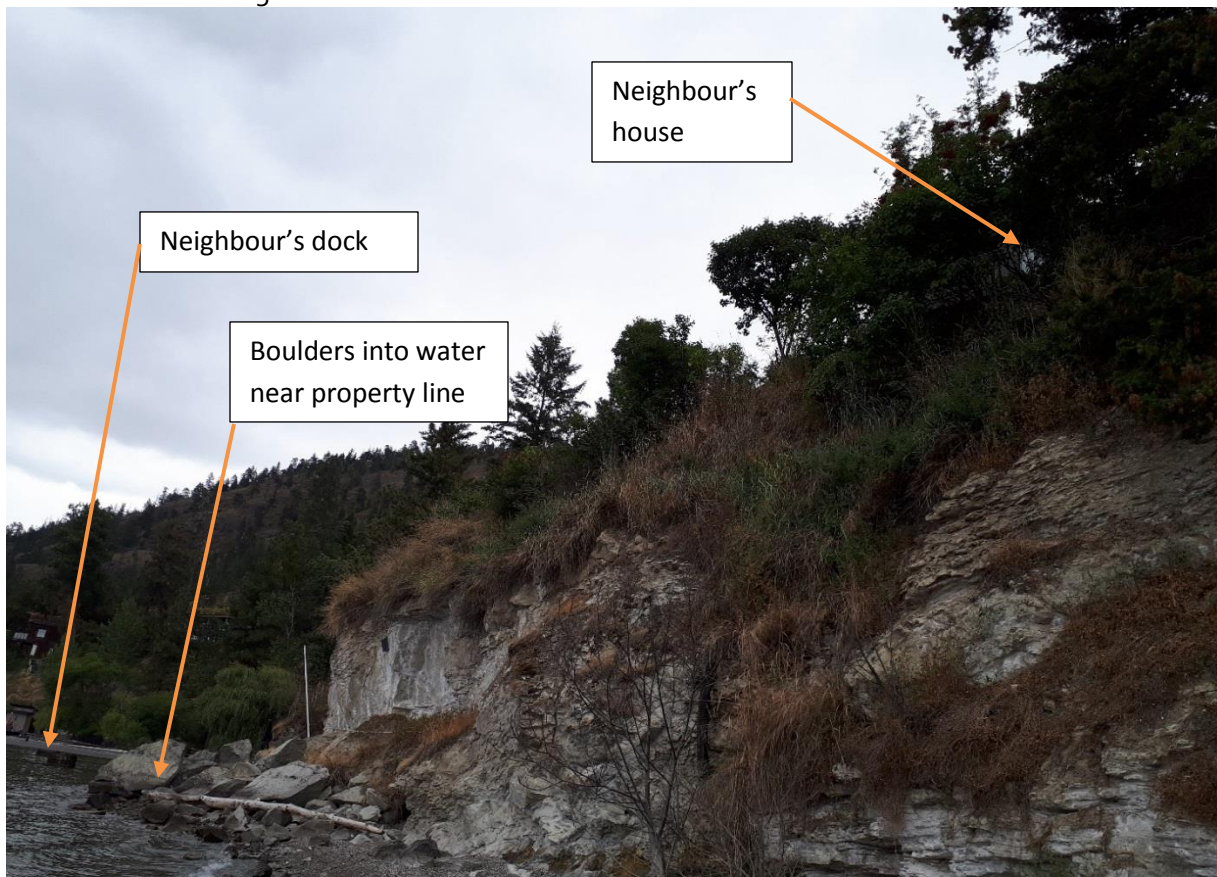




Photo 9. Rocky point looking west



Photo 10. View looking at entrance at Poplar Point Drive





Photo 11. View looking north

