

City of Kelowna

Parks Master Plan

Phase 1 Report | August 2022



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Introduction

The City is undergoing the process to complete a *Parks Master Plan*. Building from the work and open space priorities established in *Imagine Kelowna*, the City's Official Community Plan (OCP), the *Parks Master Plan* will provide a vision, goals, and overall framework to guide Council and City Administration in making long-range park planning and near-term development decisions to grow and sustain the City's portfolios of parks, open spaces and natural areas over the next 10 years.

Phase 1 of the Master Plan's development is summarized in this report. This phase of work involved extensive background review including analysis of the existing park network and its amenities, research on best practices and trends in park needs and provision, as well as engagement with the citizens of Kelowna on their current use of parks and future aspirations for the park system. In this Phase, the parks system was examined at a city-wide scale. Future work in Phase 2 will explore community specific growth, trends, and needs to determine more detailed direction for these areas.



Purpose

The purpose of the Phase 1 Report is twofold.

1. The first aim is to summarize the findings from the various research, analyses, and engagement findings to provide a clear picture of the current state of Kelowna's park system and areas of existing need.
2. The second function is to propose a framework for parkland and public space amenities, including an overall vision, guiding principles, goals, and service levels which will inform direction within the Parks Master Plan.

Project Phases

The Kelowna Parks Master Plan will be developed in three phases:

Phase 1: Framework – This phase, summarized in this report, includes the City's vision statement, guiding objectives and goals, and a detailed inventory of Kelowna's park and open space systems at a city-wide level. The creation of the report involved background research, analysis of Kelowna's parks, amenities, and trends as well as public engagement to inform future aspirations for the park system.

Phase 2: Strategic Moves – The next phase will focus on community specific growth, trends and needs, specifically for Kelowna's urban centres. The phase will involve community engagement to support and identify opportunities and challenges, identify missing parks and public space resources, and establish metrics and asset targets.

Phase 3: Plan Adaption – The last phase will provide finer-scale neighbourhood-level recommendations, future park implementation strategies, funding priorities, parks management and operational direction.

Objectives

Active parks, open spaces and natural areas have played an important role in the development of Kelowna over the past century. At present, the City is facing new development challenges with respect to dynamic city growth balanced with a desire for increased active parks, amenities and recreation. It is with this in mind that the Parks Master Plan was envisaged and that every park must be unique and singular in its own way.

The Master Plan was also purposefully crafted to fulfill the following wide-ranging objectives:

1. Utilize technical study and community input to guide future park development, parkland acquisition, and investment focus within our park system over the next fifty years.
2. Draw inspiration from Kelowna's special natural setting, cultural context and unique recreation opportunities.
3. Be a sustainable instrument for positive park development, enhanced livability and healthy city-building.
4. Ensure our parks and public spaces are connected, welcoming, and accessible for all citizens.
5. Provide recommended service requirements for all park typologies throughout Kelowna.
6. Reflect community values and inspiration through ideas contributed by residents, stakeholders and local Indigenous peoples.
7. Set ambitious park development goals for safeguarding our natural lands and waterways, as well as increasing public access to Okanagan Lake.
8. Implement the parks specific direction within Imagine Kelowna and the 2040 Official Community Plan .



Policy Alignment

The Kelowna Parks Master Plan sits below Kelowna's 2040 Official Community Plan (OCP) *Imagine Kelowna*, the community's vision for the future (Figure 1). As such, it must adhere to the 2040 OCP's direction and policies. The Parks Master Plan is also informed by a number of other city-wide policies and plans and in turn informs strategies and policies that provide specific direction on the parks system.

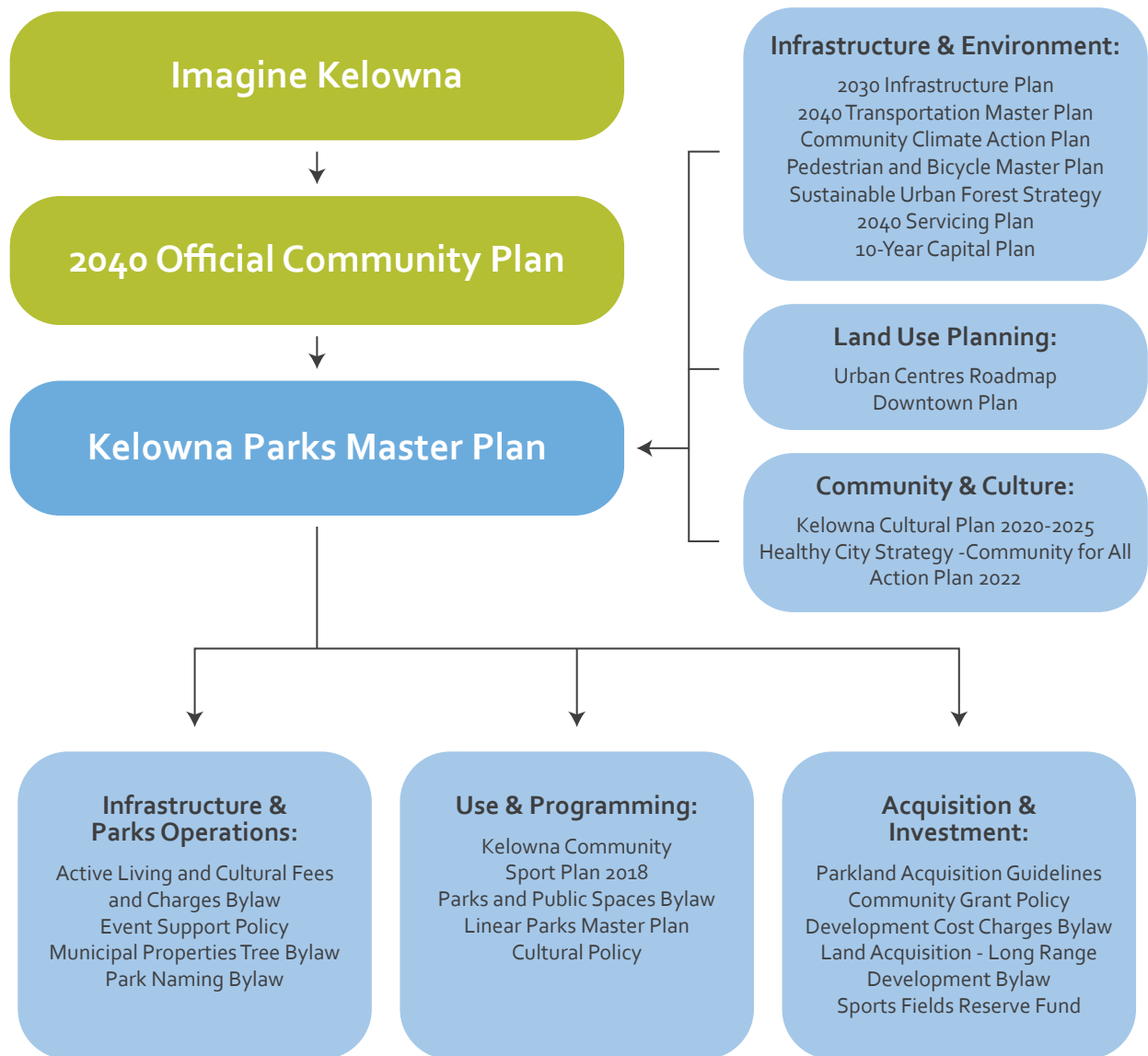


Figure 1: Kelowna Policy Hierarchy

2040 Official Community Plan

The *2040 Official Community Plan (OCP)* sets a strategic course for the next 20 years for the city's growth into a more urban and vibrant community. The Plan guides development to help realize the bold Imagine Kelowna vision. This vision informs 10 OCP Pillars that are the foundation of future planning and development in Kelowna. These pillars, listed below, focus on creating a Kelowna that is sustainable, equitable, and connected:

1. Prioritize sustainable transportation and shared mobility.
2. Strengthen Kelowna as the region's economic hub.
3. Take action on climate change.
4. Protect and restore our environment.
5. Focus investment in Urban Centres.
6. Incorporate equity into city building.
7. Target growth along transit corridors.
8. Promote more housing diversity.
9. Stop planning new suburban neighbourhoods.
10. Protect agriculture.

All 10 of these pillars inform plans and strategies such as the *Kelowna Parks Master Plan*. However, the most relevant pillars to the park system call for prioritizing sustainable transportation, taking action on climate change, protecting and restoring the environment, focusing investment on urban centres, and incorporating equity into city building. This means that parks should strive to balance natural protection with recreation and should be inclusive spaces that are equitably distributed throughout the city.

The *2040 Official Community Plan* also has 5 objectives directly related to parks. These objectives call for parks to be well-connected, accessible, and reflective of their unique natural and cultural contexts. The City is also encouraged to acquire new parks, increase public access to the water, and form partnerships to acquire and deliver park services. Within these objectives are several specific policies and targets regarding access to parkland for residents, including:

- OCP Policy 10.1.4: 2.2 hectares of active parks per 1,000 population.
- OCP Policy 10.1.5: Within the Urban Centres and the Core Area, strive for a walking distance of 400 metres to neighbourhood and community parks.
- OCP Policy 10.1.5: Outside the Core Area and Urban Centres, strive for a walking distance to neighbourhood, community, linear parks or natural areas within 500m.

These targets have been incorporated into the Service Levels, discussed later in this report.

Other City-wide Plans and Policies

In addition to the 2040 Official Community Plan, the Kelowna Parks Master Plan is informed by a number of other policies and strategic plans, including the:

- 2040 Transportation Master Plan
- 2030 Infrastructure Plan
- Urban Centres Roadmap
- Community Climate Action Plan
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan
- Kelowna Cultural Plan 2020-2025
- Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Plan 2015
- Healthy City Strategy – Community for All
- Action Plan 2022
- Downtown Plan
- Parkland Acquisition Guidelines
- 2040 Servicing Plan
- 10-year Capital Plan
- Sustainable Urban Forest Strategy

The vision and principles for these plans supplement those in the Official Community Plan and inform a vision

of Kelowna’s parks as inclusive and diverse spaces that are accessible, well connected through multiple modes of transportation, and a key part of the community’s culture, health, and wellness.

Subsidiary Plans and Policies

There are a variety of plans, policies, and bylaws that are subsidiary to the direction of the *Kelowna Parks Master Plan*. These plans and policies inform park acquisition and investment, park use and programming, and infrastructure and parks operations. Future updates to any of these plans and policies should follow the direction of the *Kelowna Parks Master Plan*, including:

- Active Living and Cultural Fees and Charges Bylaw
- Event Support Policy
- Municipal Properties Tree Bylaw
- Park Naming Bylaw
- Kelowna Community Sport Plan 2018
- Parks and Public Spaces Bylaw
- Linear Parks Master Plan
- Cultural Policy
- Community Grant Policy
- Development Cost Charges Bylaw
- Land Acquisition – Long Range Development Bylaw

Context and Trends

The following sections provide the context for understanding Kelowna’s parks system and trends that will impact future parks planning, including historic development context and current recreation preferences and trends. This includes the feedback that we heard from engagement Phase 1 on residents’ park and activity priorities and preferences.



Historic Development of Parks

As Kelowna expanded and grew over the past 50 years, different planning practices have impacted the way the community has developed. These different development patterns have influenced the types of parks in different communities. These historic patterns were analyzed using publicly available air photos from 1976 to 2019, and a review of existing legislation and policy tools used by the municipality.

The Central City sector of Kelowna is the oldest part of the city, encompassing the entirety of the city in 1905. Parts of South Pandosy and the Glenmore-Clifton-Dilworth sector also make up some of the older parts of the city, primarily developed before the 1970s. These communities were developed with many sidewalks in the Downtown core and sporadic sidewalks in the other two neighbourhoods. A variety of different park types and sizes were also developed. This included a number of waterfront parks, including City Park and Waterfront Park, as well as larger parks such as Dilworth Mountain Park. As many of these parks were older, they went through a number of upgrades over the years. For example, Parkinson Recreation Park expanded to include a stadium between 1976 and 1984 and has undergone a number of improvements from the late 1990s right through to the 2010s. City Park, one of the oldest parks in Kelowna, also saw a number of changes throughout its history, including the removal of the lake swimming pool, the introduction of promenades, a pavilion building in the 1970s, recreational courts in the 1970s and 1980s, and a skatepark and children's splash pad in the 1990s. These upgrades over time are representative of the changing recreational trends and needs of Kelowna's residents.

Many communities in Kelowna started out as small agricultural communities in the 1800s and early 1900s before becoming part of the growing city. The 1970s to

the mid-1990s saw the expanded development of the Rutland and McKinley communities, as well as parts of South Pandosy and Upper and Lower Mission. As they were developed, the more populated areas of these communities had more parks and many of these were smaller, pocket parks. Compared to some of the older areas, Rutland generally had more medium size parks rather than large parks serving regional users. On the other hand, the McKinley area had mostly pocket parks and a few large or regional parks. The parks developed in both the Upper and Lower Mission areas were also larger than those in other areas and most of the park spaces were clustered together.

The Belgo-Black Mountain and Southeast Kelowna areas saw initial development in the 1970s and 1980s, including school sites and agricultural parcels. These areas, as well as the lands around Highway 97 saw more intensive developed in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Many of the other communities also expanded during this time, most notably Upper and Lower Mission. These areas primarily had larger parks that were clustered or connected with each other. In neighbourhoods adjacent to or near Mission Creek, many of these larger, well connected park spaces revolved around the Mission Creek Greenway Regional Park. There were some smaller, local parks located in these communities as well, but they were generally more dispersed. There tend to be more sidewalks in these newer communities, which creates a more pedestrian oriented environment and better connectivity between parks and active and passive greenspaces.

Looking forward into the 2020s, there are several parks and capital development projects on the horizon. This includes Pandosy Waterfront Park, which is scheduled to open in December 2022. This park is Kelowna's newest waterfront and city-wide park development in over 13 years. Other capital development projects announced for 2023 include DeHart Community Park and the redevelopment of the Kelowna Community Campus and Sports Fields.



Recreation Trends

There are several demographic and recreation trends that will impact future park planning in Kelowna – from an aging population to an increasing popularity of self-directed recreation activities. As part of Phase 1, a trend study was conducted, which looked at demographic trends for Kelowna, recreational trends across BC and Canada, as well as trends in recreational access across the Country. These high-level trends are summarized in the following subsections. The full Trends Study is available in Appendix B.

Demographic Trends

There are two significant demographic trends that will influence park development moving forward. First, there is a growing senior and older adult population in Kelowna. This means there will be a greater desire for age-appropriate facilities, intergenerational activities and programming, as well as additional accessibility considerations for both indoor and outdoor facilities. Further to this, Kelowna also has a smaller than average household size and a variety of different household types. This means that parks need to be flexible to serve multiple generations of users as communities grow and change. The second major demographic trend impacting parks is the growing diversity of the community. There is a need for park spaces to be more inclusive of all cultures and backgrounds and to create spaces for everyone to come together and foster compassion and understanding. Barriers faced, particularly by new Canadians, such as language, accessibility, and costs (programming, equipment, etc), will also need to be considered and accommodated. A more detailed demographic analysis can be found in Appendix B.

Activity and Amenity Trends

Across Canada, there is an increasing desire for self-directed leisure activities and a decreasing interest in programmed recreation. This means that there is more demand for flexible, multi-purpose spaces that can accommodate self-directed sports or leisure activities. Programming that is shorter and more flexible, such as drop-in programs, are also becoming more desirable, since they can better accommodate the busy schedules of participants and their families.

Trail-based recreational uses, including hiking, mountain biking, and running, are also increasing in demand. This has been particularly evident since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the early spring of 2020.. Many municipalities are creating more multi-use pathways for both recreational and transportation uses, which also helps to create connections within and between parks. With the increase in trail use also comes increasing user conflicts, usually between faster moving bikes/scooters and pedestrians. In some places, these modes are separated into different pathways for safer travel and to provide a broader range of experiences.

Throughout BC and Canada, there are several recreational activities that have been increasing in popularity (Table 1). Some of these top activities include pickleball, waterplay, BMX, mountain biking, and hiking. A more extensive trend analysis can be found in Appendix B.

Table 1: Recreation Trends

(Sources: Department of Canadian Heritage, n.d.; Town of Okotoks, 2017; Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, 2017)

THE MOST POPULAR PARK ACTIVITIES (CANADA-WIDE AND IN B.C.)		ACTIVITIES INCREASING IN DEMAND INCLUDE	
• Walking	• Basketball	• Trail-based recreation	• BMX facilities
• Sitting	• Baseball	• Hiking	• Ziplining
• Cycling	• Picnicking	• Pickleball courts	• Mountain biking
• Running and jogging	• Soccer	• Children’s waterplay facilities	• Splash pads for kids
		• Indoor tracks	

Key Considerations for Kelowna's Parks

Balancing Protection & Use of Natural Areas

Balancing recreational use and the protection of ecological areas is another tension within parks planning. However, it has been demonstrated that those who have greater access and connection to nature are more inclined to see its value and promote its protection. Nature-based recreation and environmental stewardship are growing trends, and Kelowna has a strong community of volunteers and stewards. More information can be found in Appendix B.

Inactivity Crisis

It is recommended that adults participate in 150 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity per week and children and youth participate in 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity every day (Tremblay, 2016). In Canada, only 38% of children and youth (ages five to 17), 18% of adults (ages 18-plus), and 14% of older adults (65-79) currently meet these recommendations (Government of Canada, 2018). Inactivity is a crisis in Canada and is estimated to cost the healthcare system up to \$6.8 billion annually in preventable chronic diseases linked to physical inactivity (Government of Canada, 2019).

Parks play an essential role in supporting physical literacy and helping citizens remain active for life. Parks need to provide inclusive play spaces, spaces for youth, and places for both organized and informal physical activity for all ages. Parks should be designed to provide exposure to many different environmental conditions and experience to help with early development, such as water play, winter play, and nature play (Higgs et al, 2019).

Natural Hazards

Natural hazards include smaller scale safety concerns such as falling trees, erosional gullies, and dense vegetation, as well as larger and broadly distributed events such as wildfires, smoke, floods, heat waves, or large scale weather events. These pose risks to public safety, land stability, and public health that must be acknowledged in the City's parks management approaches. There is also opportunity design parks to assist with response and resiliency to such events. For example, parks can be designed to provide amenities such as shade, washrooms, and water fountains, to support those who are most vulnerable during extreme heat events.

Climate change will also continue to impact how parks function and municipalities will need to adapt to these changes. Increased susceptibility to natural hazards will be seen throughout the city and its environs. This results in increased repair and maintenance costs for the city. Changes to weather patterns also affects residents' ability to participate in certain activities that require particular weather conditions, impacting sports and tourism events, which may have social and economic impacts to the city.

Equity

While having a variety of amenities is important, it is critical that both amenities and parks are accessible to everyone and welcoming, particularly for equity seeking groups (Indigenous people, people experiencing homelessness, women, racialized communities, LGBTQ2+ communities, veterans and people with disabilities). The pandemic has highlighted the importance of parks to mental health and quality of life while also demonstrating



how inequitable the distribution of parks and open spaces is throughout cities. It is essential that parks planning not only look at the number of amenities and the amount of park space, but how accessible these features are within different communities, how welcome users feel in park spaces, and if the specific needs of communities are being met. More information can be found in Appendix B.

Homelessness

There are several challenges and opportunities regarding parks planning and homelessness. In Kelowna, there are at least 297 people without secure housing (Kelowna Housing Hub, 2020). Many of these individuals also identify as part of other equity-seeking groups (6% youth between the ages of 15-24, 21% Indigenous, and 1% as LGBTQ2S+).

Parks can be an important space for those experiencing homelessness. When designed inclusively, parks can provide needed amenities such as drinking water, washrooms, shade or shelter from the elements, and safe gathering and social spaces. Park programming can help connect those experiencing homelessness with social supports as well as provide access to meaningful wellness, recreation, or skill-based activities. Beyond serving those actively experiencing homelessness, parks can also play a role in preventing homelessness, by providing opportunities for building community, contributing to individual resiliency, and fostering a sense of belonging.

One of the greatest challenges regarding homelessness in parks is safety. Research shows that those experiencing homelessness are more vulnerable to victimization and crime than housed people (Homeless Hub, 2021). In less active parks, where there is less passive surveillance or passersby, parks can become unsafe for both those experiencing homelessness as well as for other park users who may become the targets of crime. It is critical that parks are designed and programmed so that they are visible and vibrant to deter such activities. Lighting, sight lines, and access to emergency services are important design elements to consider.

Another challenge regarding homelessness in parks is inclusivity. Parks should foster compassion and understanding for those experiencing homelessness. Rather than hardening parks with defensive architecture to exclude those experiencing homelessness, parks should be designed in collaboration with those who use the space and their needs. Parks can also provide education, art,

signage and outreach that highlights the human aspect of homelessness and clearly communicates that parks are spaces for everyone.

Indigenous Peoples

The City of Kelowna, including all of its parks system, is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded lands of the syilx/Okanagan people. Active partnerships and direct relationships with local Indigenous communities will be essential to create inclusive parks that respect Indigenous history, traditional uses, and contemporary cultural expression as well as foster Truth and Reconciliation.

Truth and reconciliation has become a core priority in both the Federal and Provincial government mandates, as exemplified in annual budget allocations and Speeches from the Throne, with over \$11 billion dollars over six years assigned to support Indigenous communities in the federal budget alone. Grant funding in British Columbia, particularly from senior government levels have also been assigned to this priority requiring details on how projects address the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action.

Kelowna has a young and growing urban Indigenous population. Approximately 5.5% of the total population of Kelowna identified as Indigenous in the 2016 Census. This is slightly lower than the Indigenous population in BC at 5.9% but higher than the Indigenous population in Canada at 4.9%.

Within Kelowna, Indigenous peoples have historically been denied the ability to practice their culture in our parks and public spaces and have been removed from placemaking in favour of settler-colonial narratives. Contemporary research across Canada also shows that Indigenous people face greater barriers to accessing and participating in recreation. Wherein, Indigenous youth are less likely to participate in organized sports due to increased social, cultural, and economic barriers for their families (Department of Canadian Heritage, n.d.). These barriers can be overcome by working directly with Indigenous youth and their families to improve access and create programming that caters to their needs.

With respect to the Parks Master Plan, Indigenous history and traditional cultural practices may be of particular significance informing our park planning Guiding Principles of stewardship, equity and celebration as the syilx Okanagan People have been stewards of this land long before Kelowna existed as a municipality.



Phase 1 Engagement Summary

Public engagement for Phase 1 was conducted from November 2-December 12, 2021. Members of the public, community organizations, and Indigenous partners were invited to participate in this visioning; sharing ideas and insights for the future direction of the parks system. A variety of methods were used to reach a wide and diverse audience, including a public survey, sounding boards, quick answer online questions, stakeholder workshops, and stakeholder discussion guides. A total of 371 surveys were completed and 8 stakeholders participated in the workshops. The full Engagement Summary can be found at Appendix C.

The public engagement process highlighted a number of priorities for Kelowna to incorporate in the Parks Master Plan, such as:

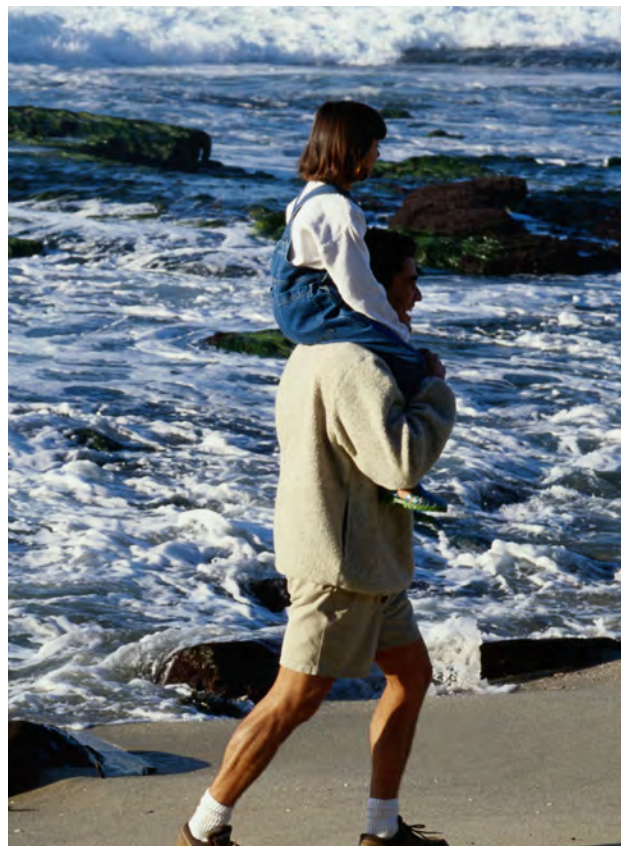
- Providing spaces for connecting with nature, self-directed leisure, and respite from urban areas
- Providing unprogrammed, flexible spaces for people to casually use
- Protecting natural areas and stream alignments
- Ensuring that parks are equitably distributed and accessible for all residents
- Providing more pathway connections
- Addressing safety concerns voiced by residents, particularly those related to drug use in parks
- Responding to homelessness in parks

Highlights from the engagement questions and topics are discussed in the following subsections.

Results

Great Public Spaces

Members of the public were asked to describe what makes a great public space. Participants described spaces that were easy to access, safe and clean, and universally accessible. Great public spaces also have lots of trees and feel natural, providing a place for relaxation and retreat within the city. Participants also felt that great public spaces were spacious and had adequate amenities such as seating and washrooms, as well as flexible greenspaces, playspaces for children, gathering spaces, and access to water.



Benefits to the Public

A common theme throughout the engagement process was the various benefits of parks, which have been highlighted over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, 46% of participants mentioned that their park use increased over the pandemic. Participants cited a number of benefits including mental health benefits from having a place to unwind and connect with nature. Parks also provide a number of physical health benefits by providing a space to engage in sports and recreational activities. Parks provide a space for people to engage in recreational activities as well as connect, gather, and engage with each other.

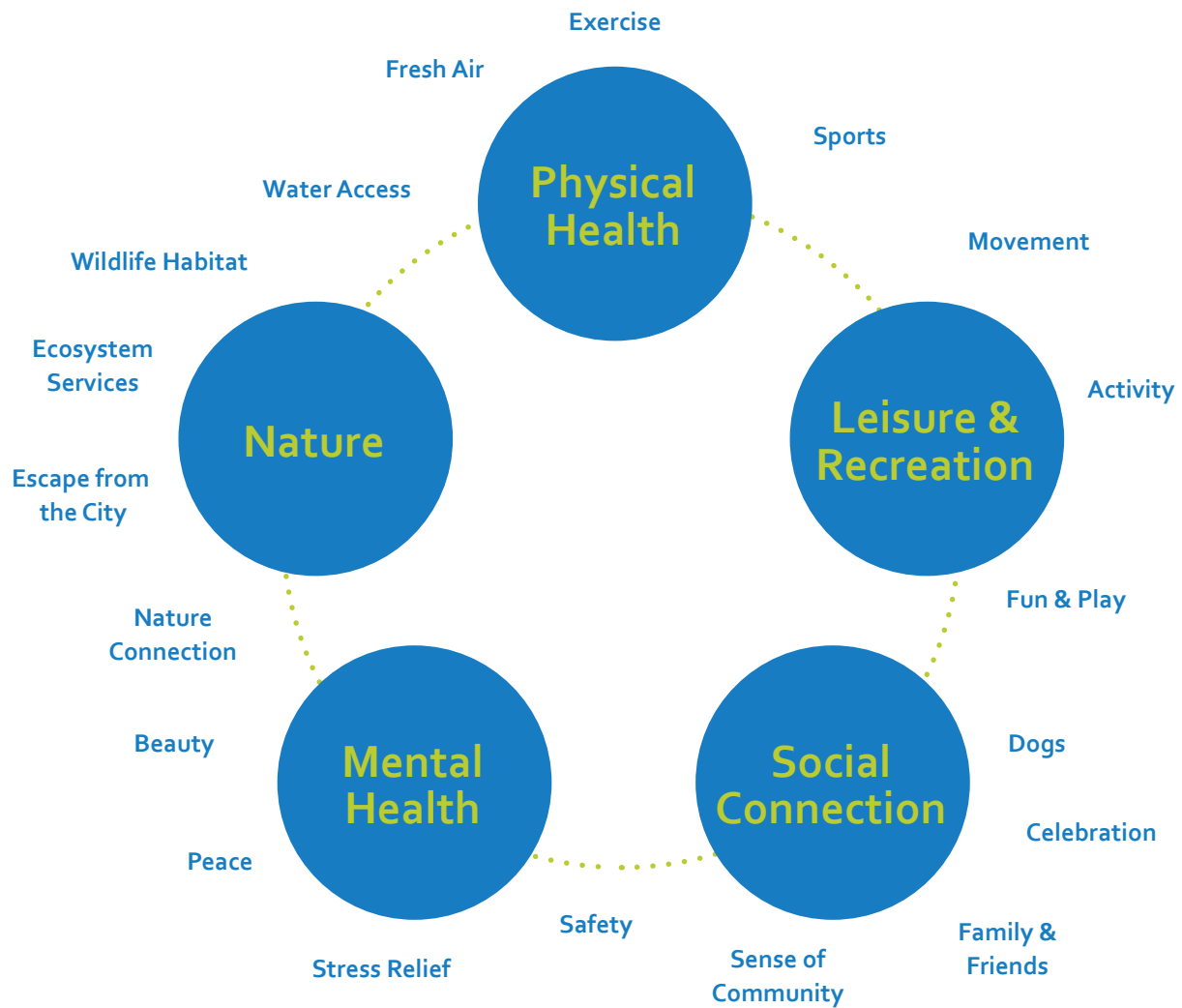


Figure 2: Benefits of Parks

Barriers to Access

Both the public and stakeholders were asked about barriers to accessing parks or participating in recreational activities. One of the most common barriers was limited access, with participants mentioning that there were no park spaces located near them. A lack of parking was also mentioned as a barrier. Since most people walk or drive to parks, these spaces should be located within walking distance and adequate sidewalks and parking should be provided. Other common barriers were safety, a lack of amenities, overcrowding, a lack of physical accessibility features, and expensive fees.

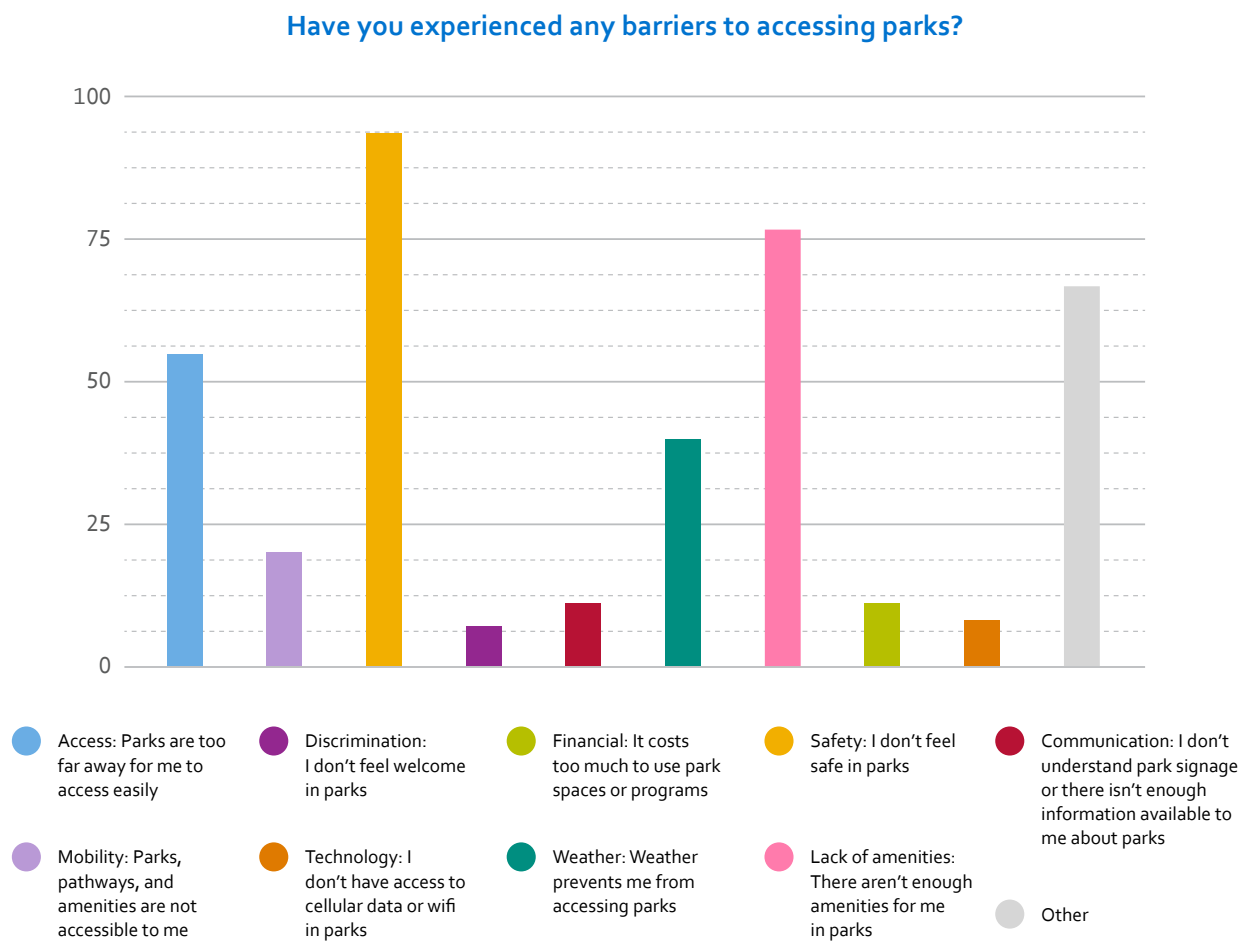


Figure 3: Barriers to Access

Recreational Trends and Activities

To determine high-level recreational trends, the public was asked about the types of activities they currently participate in. The most common activities were spending time connecting with nature, closely followed by walking / running / travel by wheelchair. Many participants also indicated that they use parks to rest and relax, socialize / connect with others, and swim / play at the beach very often. Participants generally attended events and participated in court and field sport less frequently. Stakeholders mentioned that they expect park use to increase in the next 5 years and that tennis, pickleball, water parks/splash pads, skate/BMX parks, climbing, and trail-based recreation were all increasing in popularity.

How frequently do you do the following activities in Kelowna's parks?

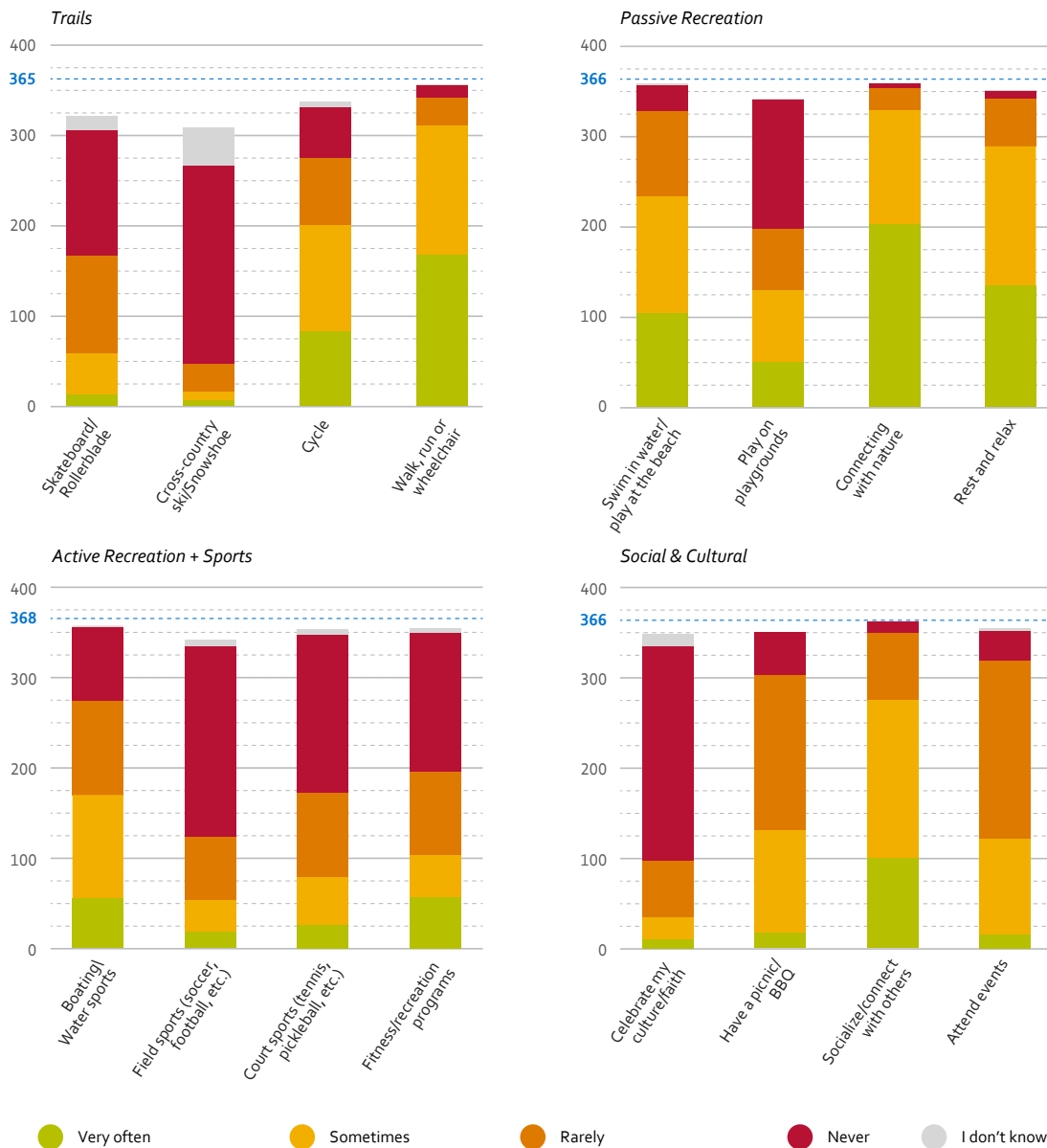
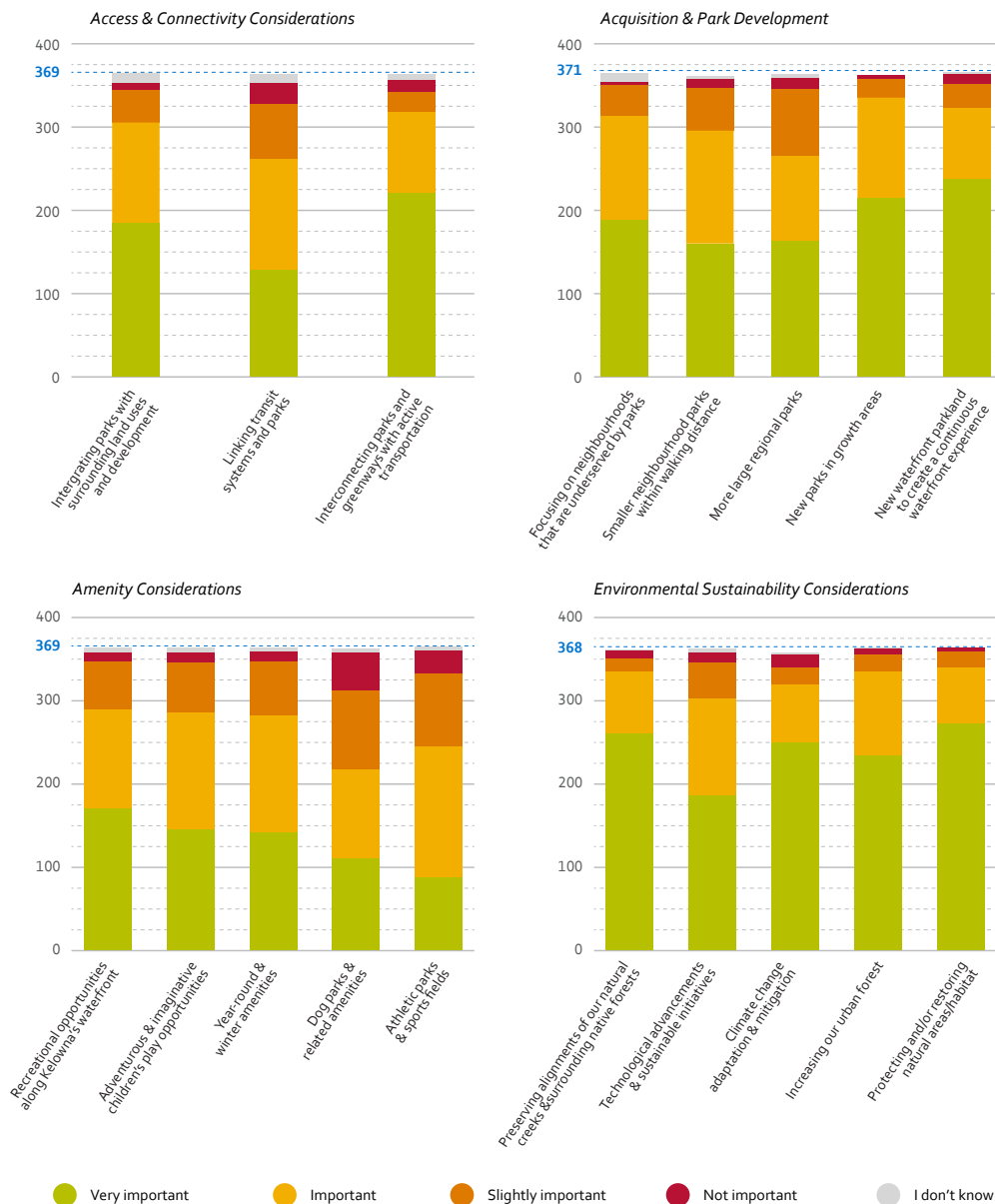


Figure 4: Activities in Parks

Park Planning Priorities

The public and stakeholders were asked how important they think different park planning considerations are for the future of Kelowna’s park system. The public ranked environmental sustainability as the most important park considerations. This was also highly ranked amongst stakeholders, as was ensuring connectivity and access and inclusivity. Both stakeholders and the public believe it is important to create a connected waterfront, acquire parkland in growth areas, and focus on underserved neighbourhoods first. Other important considerations include collaboration with Indigenous partners, stewardship opportunities, and reducing maintenance and irrigation requirements in parks. Sense of place was lowest amongst park priorities. There was some difference of opinion amongst stakeholders on whether to prioritize natural spaces or provide more amenities.

How important do you think the following are to the future of Kelowna’s parks system?



Current State of Parks

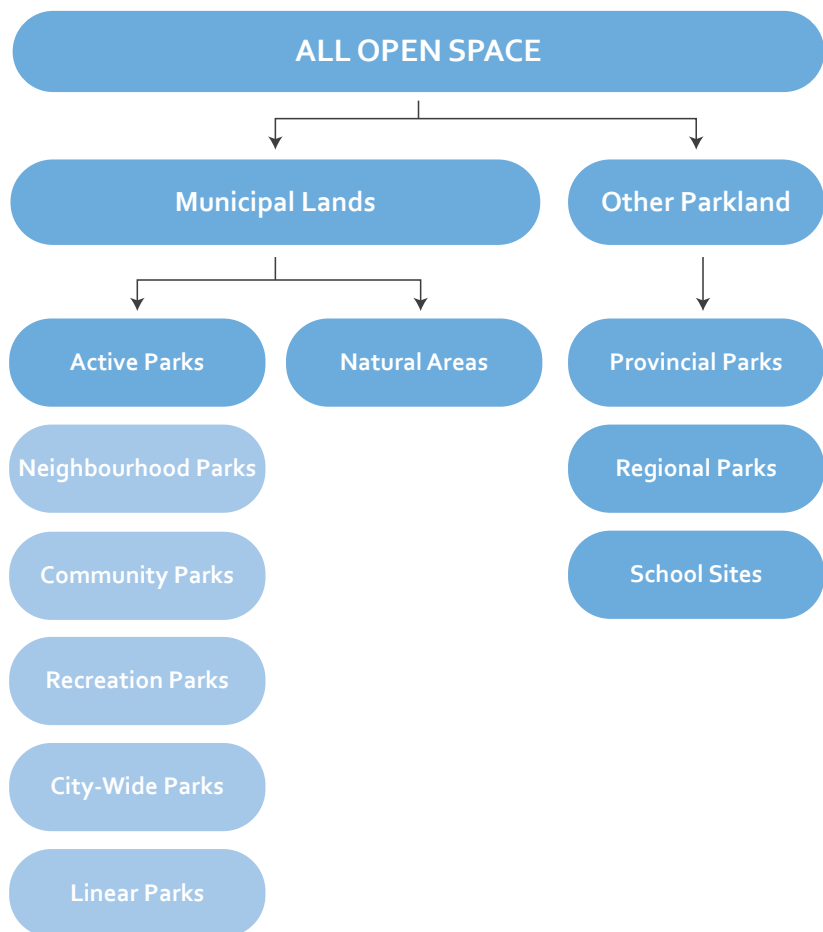
The following section describes the types of parks and open space found in Kelowna, discusses the proposed Park Access Framework, and provides mapping and analysis of City's parks and park amenities to give a city-wide snapshot of the current state of the parks system. Key gaps in access to parks and amenities are highlighted to direct further acquisition, programming, and development of the parks system.

Types of Parks and Open Spaces

Kelowna contains a wide variety of parks and open spaces. Some parks are municipally owned and operated by the City of Kelowna (such as City-wide Parks, Recreation Parks, Community Parks, Neighbourhood Parks, and Linear Parks), while others include Provincial Parks and Regional Parks operated by other jurisdictions. Other types of publicly-accessible open spaces include school sites, road rights of way, and Natural Areas.

Active Parks - Active Parks include city-wide parks, recreation parks, community parks, and neighbourhood parks. They provide spaces for active play and other formal and informal recreation uses. Residents of Kelowna should have access to at least one Active Park within 500m of their home.

Passive Parks – Passive parks include natural spaces and other open spaces. They typically include steep slopes, heavily forested areas, and wetlands, and may not be suitable for development of amenities or trail infrastructure. Unlike active parks that provide spaces for active play and formal and informal recreation uses, passive park spaces are more natural open spaces that are not actively used.



Park Access Framework and Service Levels

Three service levels have been established to guide the future distribution of parks and amenities across the city. These service levels provide a framework for evaluating the parks system, allowing for the identification of well serviced and potentially under-serviced areas at a city-wide scale. The service levels are:

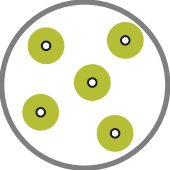
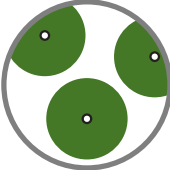

Local-Level Amenities and Park Spaces: Accessible within 500 metres, Neighbourhood Level amenities and parks are intended to be available within walking distance of all residents.

Central-Level Amenities and Park Spaces: Accessible within 3 kilometres, Community Level amenities and features usually require travel by cycling, transit, or driving, but are still provided throughout the city at a relatively short distance from home. They include small-scale popular sporting facilities, washrooms, water access locations, community gardens, and off-leash dog parks.

Destination-Level Amenities and Park Spaces: These unique and location specific Destination Level parks amenities typically require access by transit or driving a further distance, and will not be provided as equally distributed throughout the city. These amenities are unique and location-specific, often based around specific features such as a geographic amenity or larger recreational facility. These are split into 'recreational amenities' with a focus on team sports facilities, and other city-wide amenities that include motorized boat launches and main event spaces.

The amenities and features that fall within each service level are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Service Levels

SERVICE LEVEL	CATCHMENT	AMENITIES/FEATURES	
	Local Level 500 m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighbourhood Parks Linear Parks Playgrounds (schools & parks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forested Areas / canopy cover Unprogrammed Space > 2000m²
	Central Level 3 km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Parks Basketball (schools & parks) Bookable event spaces Community gardens Off-Leash Dog parks Outdoor ice skating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tennis / pickleball Public art Skate parks Public washrooms Water access (beaches / swimming areas & waterparks)
	Destination Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City-wide parks Main event spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motorized boat launches
	City-Wide N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation Parks Indoor recreation facilities Baseball / Softball Paved courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports fields (grass and artificial turf) Volleyball courts

Amenity Distribution Analysis Method

Analyzing the parks system and amenities according to the three service levels helps to paint a full picture of how equitable the parks system currently is and where there are existing gaps. A catchment analysis was used to evaluate the existing level of access Kelowna residents have to various parks, amenities, and natural areas within walking distance. A catchment analysis uses the network of roads, sidewalks, and trails to calculate walking routes and uses this to determine how far it takes to travel from a specific feature or park. This is a more useful analysis than a typical “buffer” or “birds eye” catchment, as it takes into account on the ground routes and existing barriers to access (Figure 5).

The first step in conducting the analysis was to identify the city’s walkable network of sidewalks and pathways. Due to a lack of consistent sidewalk data, all roads within Kelowna, except major highways (which were considered unsuitable for pedestrians), were used in the analysis. This road network was combined with the park trails network to create a 'walkable network' used in the analysis. Steep slopes over 30% were also considered as barriers to access.

The walkable network was then used to create catchments around each park or amenity feature being analyzed. Three catchment sizes were created for the three service levels: *Neighbourhood-Level* (amenities and features that should be located within 500 m of all residents, along the walkable network), *Community-Level* (amenities and features that should be located within 3 km of all residents, along the walkable network), and *Destination-Level* (shown here using a catchment of 5 km along the walkable network, but without a requirement or expectation that all residents have access to these amenities and features within this distance). These catchments were analyzed with reference to the current population density throughout Kelowna to identify which areas have access, and identify key gaps in distribution throughout the city.

Most of the data used for this analysis was obtained from existing city inventories. In some cases, the data was modified or combined to create new features needed for the catchment analyses, including the following:

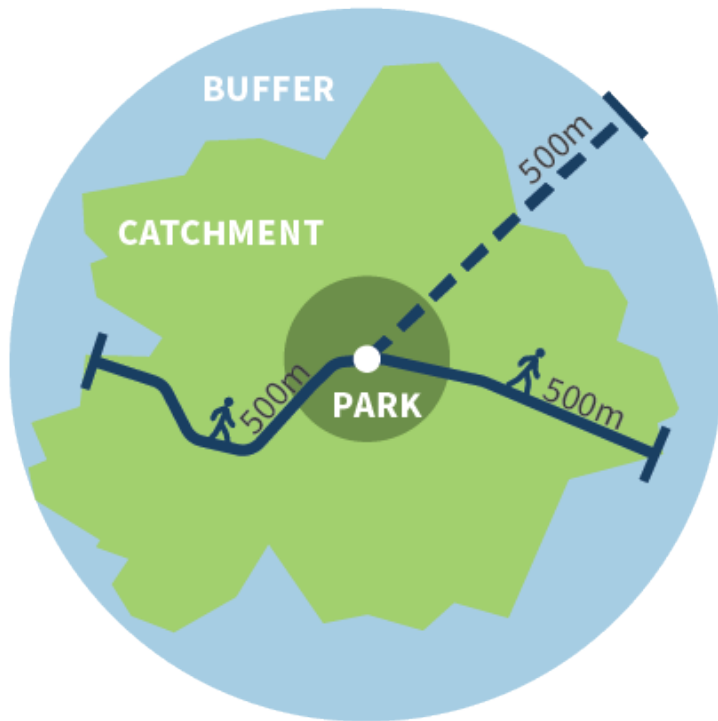
- Spatial data did not exist and had to be created for bookable event spaces, community gardens, outdoor ice skating, water access areas, and main event spaces. The locations of these features were found in various sources of city documentation.
- The City’s spatial data for basketball, playground, and sports field amenities were combined with school amenity data to create a more complete picture of the distribution of these amenities throughout the city.
- Natural Areas were derived from the Okanagan Conservation Ranking, created and maintained by the South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program (SOSCP) and Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program (OCCP), combining the categories of high and very high conservation ranking. These areas include both public and private lands and provide important habitat and connectivity services to support urban biodiversity.
- Areas of contiguous tree canopy over 1000 m² within parks were summarized to identify parks that contain large, shaded lands which provide habitat, serene spaces, and quiet passive areas that are unsuitable for more active uses.
- Unprogrammed open spaces were identified by removing the footprints of amenities in the parks inventory, along with natural areas, steep slopes, and road and trails. The remaining areas were filtered to remove small spaces under 2000 m². The resulting analysis identifies larger, flexible spaces that can be used for passive relaxation, and informal active recreation.

The catchment analysis provided two different types of results based on the features being analysed. For the parks and natural features, the map classes show the total accessible area from each part of the city, identifying areas with high amounts of parkland or other features.

The amenities analysis highlights the number of amenities accessible from each part of the city. The catchments for each amenity were combined and summarized to determine the total number of amenities within each catchment and where the areas of overlap exist.

For these analyses, access gaps are highlighted using population density with the darkest purple being high density and white showing areas without residential population. In areas where the population density is visible, there is no catchment and therefore no existing access. The hillshade and major roads layers provide additional context to the map and surrounding areas.

Figure 5: Comparing Buffers to Walkable Catchments



Buffer: An area reflecting an even 500m radius from park centre, ignoring urban form and physical obstacles

Catchment: An accessible area following walkable 500m distances along roads and pathways

Kelowna's Park Network

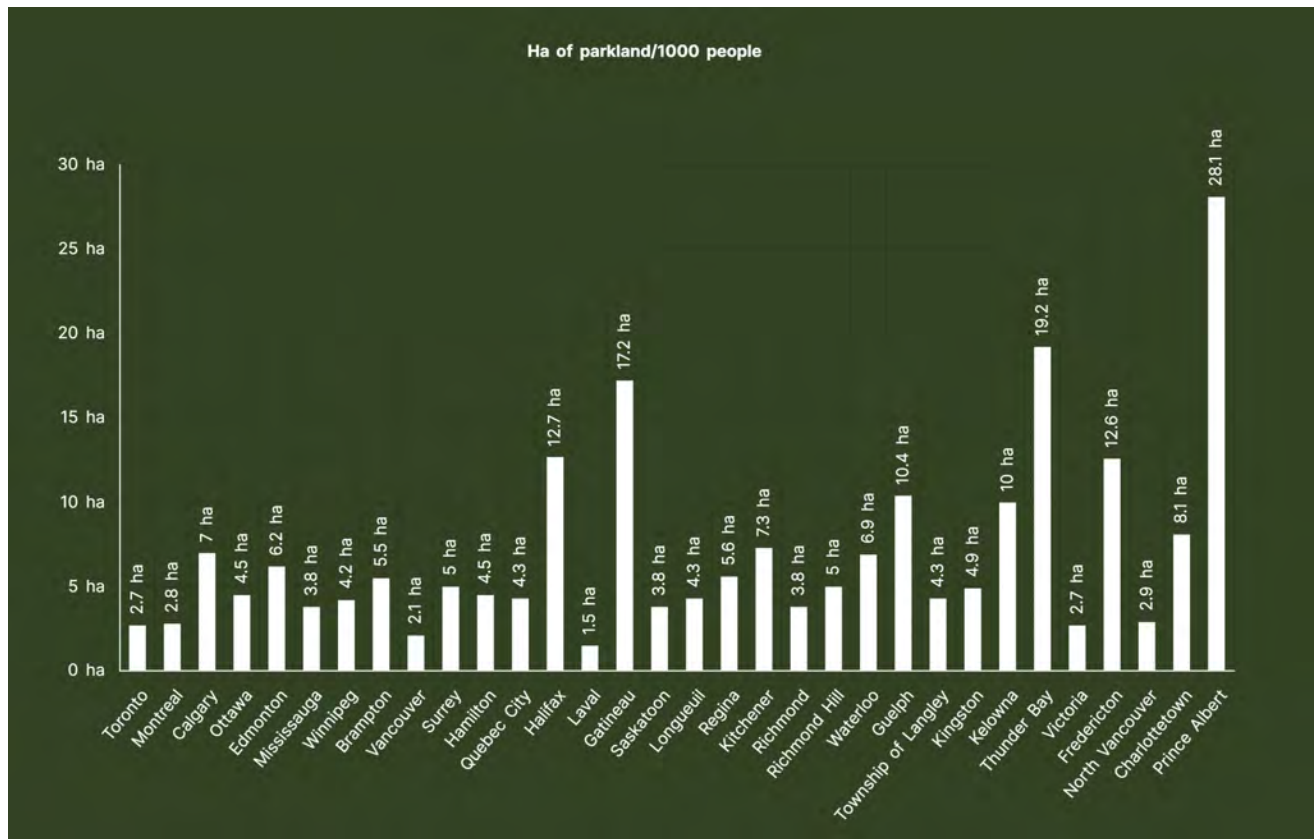
Benefits of Parks

Access to open space is vital for mental and physical health and overall quality of life, as these spaces provide people with an opportunity to relax connect with nature, and recreate. Parks provide a space for outdoor exercise and participation in sports. They also allow people to have fun and play, while participate in leisure and recreation activities. In addition, open spaces help to promote a sense of community and serve as spaces where residents can gather and connect with each other. They also offer peace, beauty, and stress relief, which is essential to people's mental health. Finally, they offer an escape from the city while providing a number of ecosystem services to both people and wildlife.

Parks and greenspace will also be essential elements to help build sustainable cities as we increasingly experience the effects of climate change. When designed accordingly, parks can provide shade, washrooms, and drinking water which can help to alleviate the impacts of extreme heat events. Parks and public open space also help build a more equitable city as Kelowna increases density, particularly in the urban centres. For these reasons, and many more, it is essential that all Kelowna citizens, especially those most vulnerable to climate change impacts, can receive the benefits that open spaces provide without having to travel too far from home.


Figure 6: Municipal Comparison of Total Parkland* Provision (Ha / 1000 people)

Source: Park People, 2021




*Definition of Total Parkland: Includes both natural and maintained parkland that is owned, leased, or under a management agreement by the municipality. Parkland refers to areas used for active or passive recreation, and does not include golf courses or water bodies.

Kelowna Parks

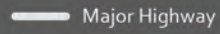
 City Boundary

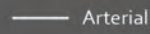
 Wetlands

 Park Trails

 Streams

Road Type

 Major Highway

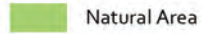
 Arterial

Parks Type

 City Wide

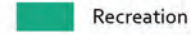
 Community

 Linear

 Natural Area

 Neighbourhood

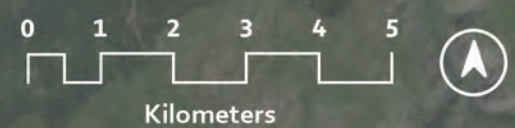
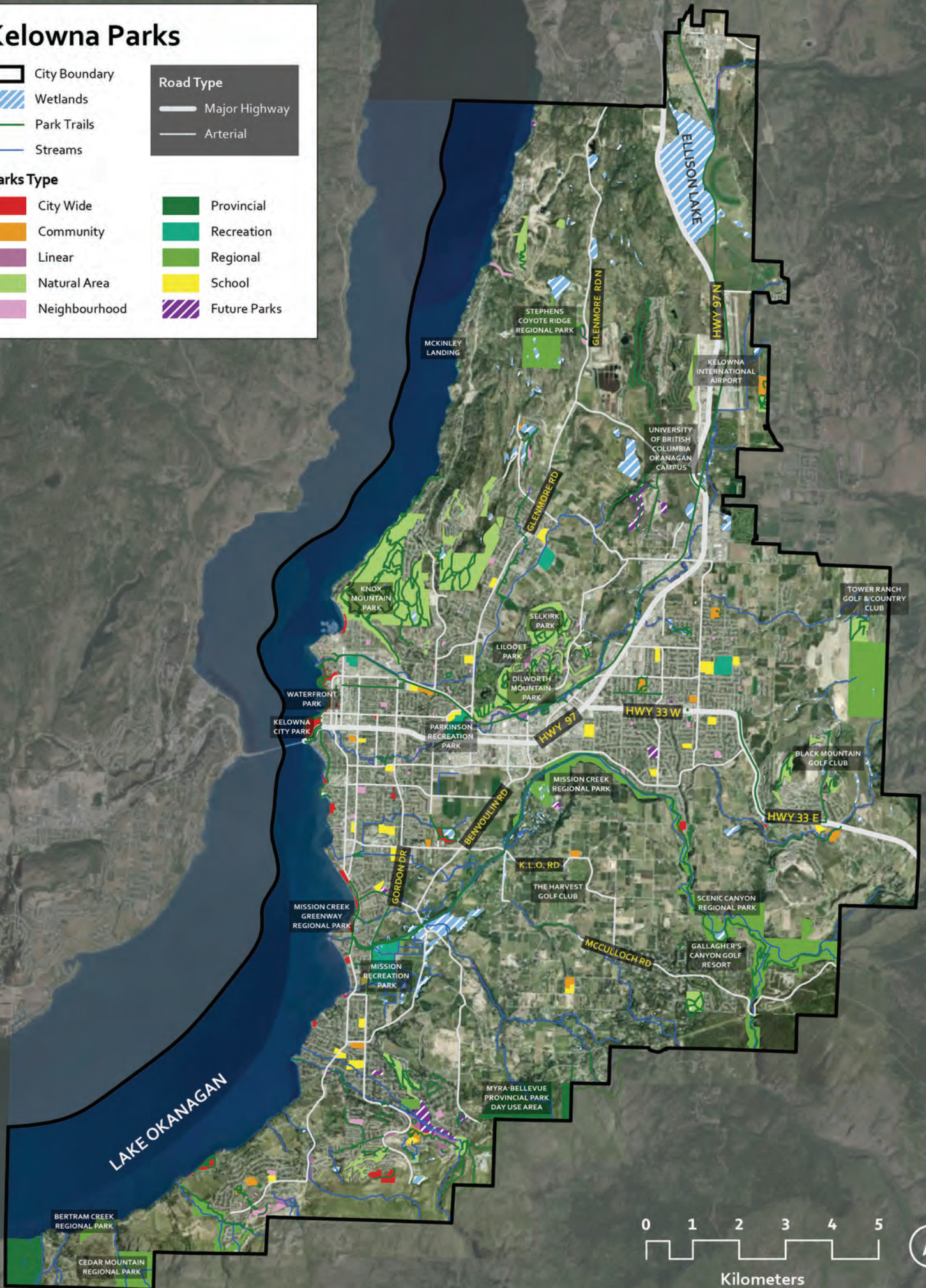
 Provincial

 Recreation

 Regional

 School

 Future Parks



Existing Public Open Space

There are currently 279 public open spaces in Kelowna (Figure 5). Of these, 167 of these are active municipal parks. Active parks include the city’s Neighbourhood, Community, City-wide, Linear, and Recreation parks, that were previously identified. These parks have a specific recreation function which is different from some other types of parks like plazas, pocket parks, or natural areas. The remainder of the open spaces in Kelowna include the large provincial and regional parks, such as Mission Creek Greenway Regional Park and Myra-Bellevue, as well as open spaces for public schools.

Given the growing population of residents, these parkland access levels will continue to decrease, especially in higher density areas, unless additional active park space is acquired. Understanding that it will not always be feasible to acquire significant areas of parkland within existing urban communities, it will be critical for new and retrofit park spaces to be highly multifunctional to accommodate growing needs and demand for open space.

When just looking at active parks, there are 22 square metres of parkland per person across the city. Again, this is not distributed evenly. Given the growing population of residents, these parkland provision levels will continue to decrease, especially in higher density areas, unless additional active park space is acquired. Understanding that it will not always be feasible to acquire significant areas of parkland within already urban communities, it will also be critical for new and retrofit park spaces to be highly multifunctional to accommodate growing needs and demand for open space.

Current Level of Service - All Open Spaces (within 500m)

QUANTITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 279 Total open spaces (1961 ha of land) • 167 active municipal parks (320 ha of parkland)
ACCESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 78% of residents have access to at least one open space • 22% of residents do not have access
PROVISION ALL OPEN SPACE	Citywide average of 130 m ² open space per person
PROVISION ACTIVE PARKS	Citywide average of 130 m ² parkland per person

Natural Areas

Natural areas provide a range of important benefits and services, from sequestering carbon, supporting biodiversity, and providing habitat and wildlife connectivity, to reducing urban heat island effects and contributing to the mental and physical health of residents. It has been demonstrated that those who spend more time in nature are also more inclined to see its value and contribute to protecting and stewarding it. This is why it is not only important to preserve and restore natural areas for their ecological value, but also for overall quality of life of people and wildlife.

Kelowna’s natural spaces include environmentally sensitive lands and ecosystems, such as forests, grasslands, creeks, wetlands, and waterfront ecosystems. Access to natural areas in parks is shown in Figure 8. Substantial amounts of natural areas are also located in private lands within Kelowna, in particular through the northern and eastern portions of the city, along the lakeside, and along riparian streambanks. There are currently 6273 hectares of natural areas in Kelowna, however only 998 hectares are part of publicly accessible parks. Approximately 33% of Kelowna residents have access to publicly accessible natural areas within walking distance (500 m). The average amount of public natural areas per person is 448 square metres but is only effectively accessible by approximately 1/3 of the population.

Current Level of Service - Natural Areas (within 500m)

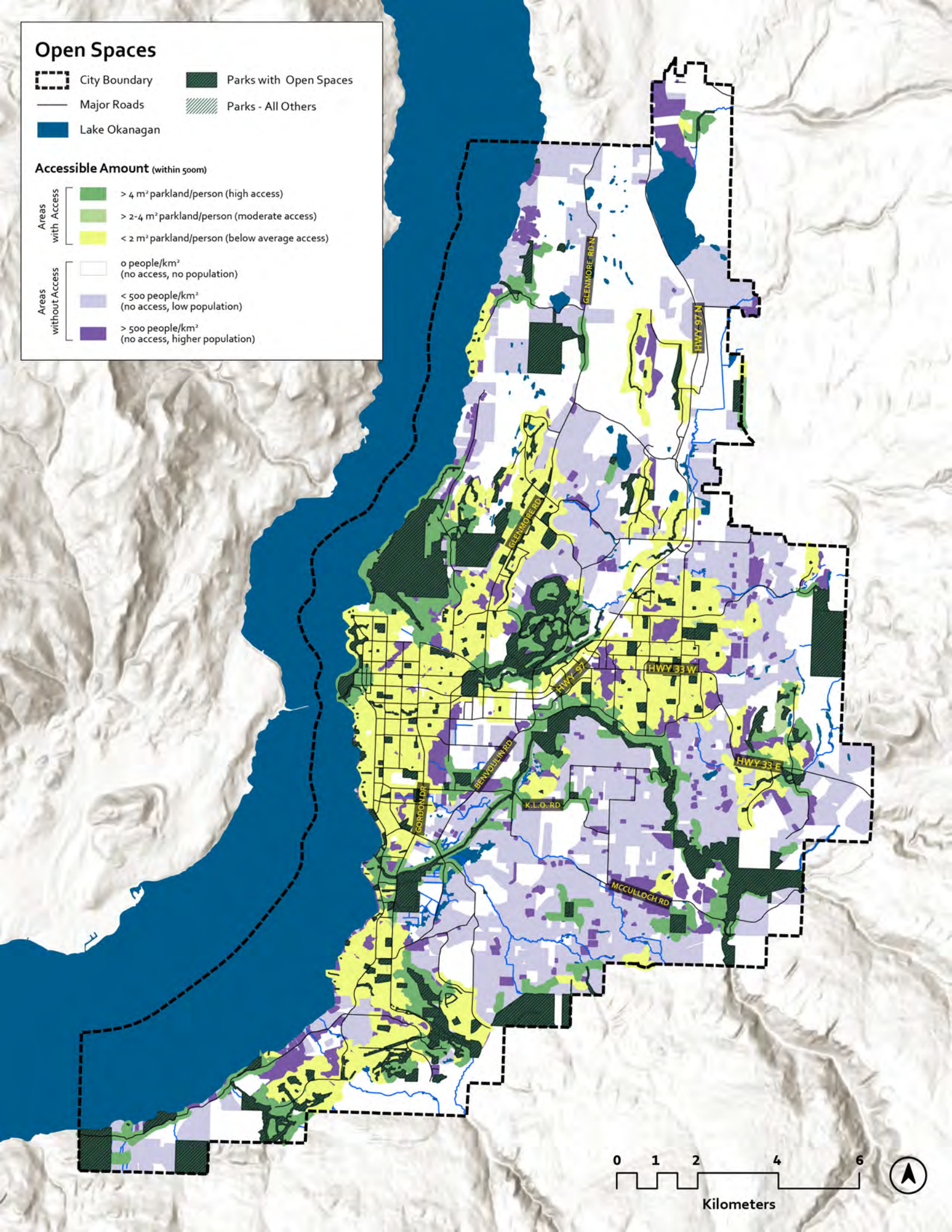
QUANTITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6273 ha of natural areas (public & private lands) • 998 ha of natural areas in parks
ACCESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33% of residents have access to natural areas in parks within 500m • 66% of residents do not have access to natural areas in parks within 500m
PROVISION NATURAL AREAS	Citywide average of 91 m ² of natural areas in parks per person

Open Spaces

- City Boundary
- Major Roads
- Lake Okanagan
- Parks with Open Spaces
- Parks - All Others

Accessible Amount (within 500m)

- Areas with Access**
 - > 4 m² parkland/person (high access)
 - > 2-4 m² parkland/person (moderate access)
 - < 2 m² parkland/person (below average access)
- Areas without Access**
 - 0 people/km² (no access, no population)
 - < 500 people/km² (no access, low population)
 - > 500 people/km² (no access, higher population)









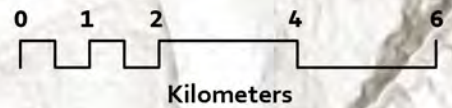
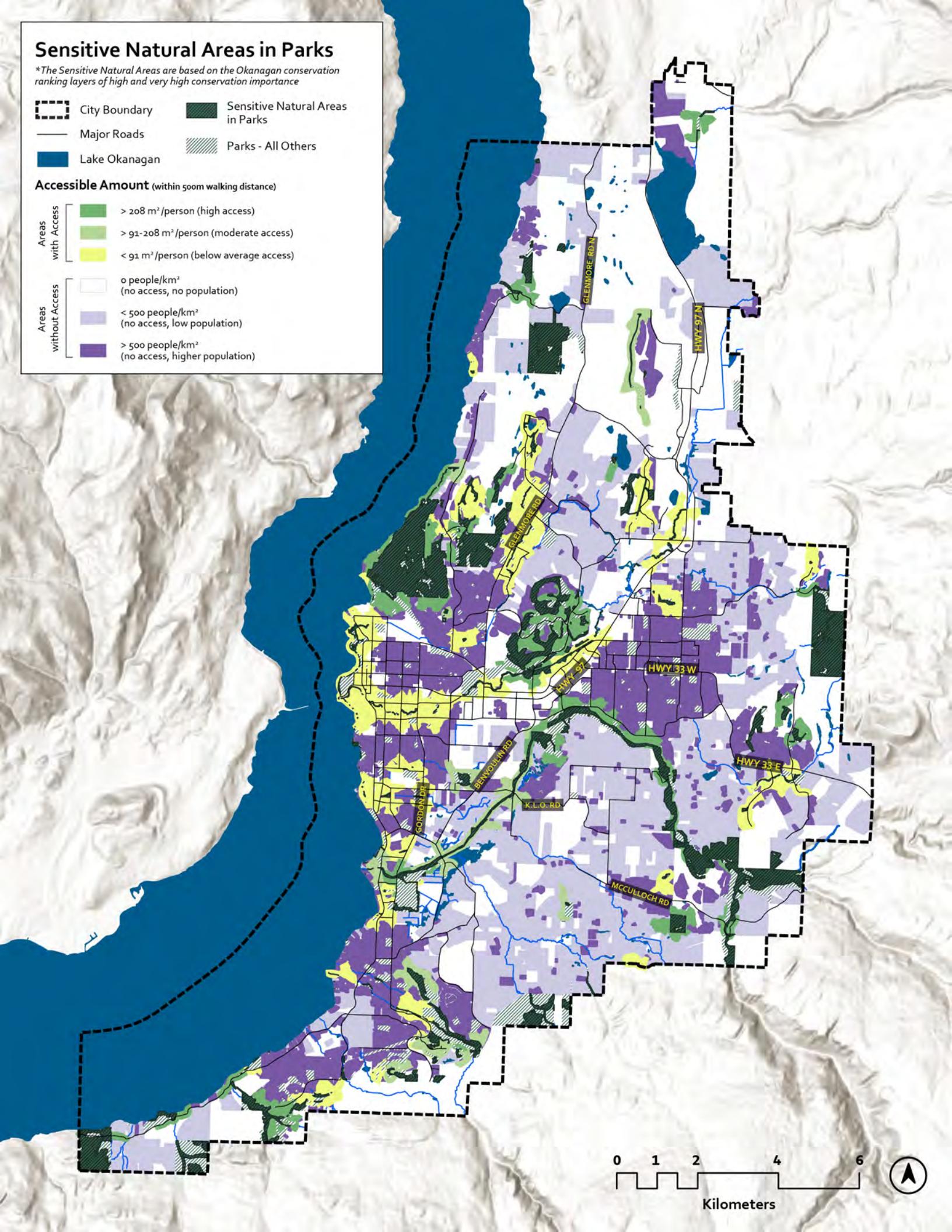
Sensitive Natural Areas in Parks

*The Sensitive Natural Areas are based on the Okanagan conservation ranking layers of high and very high conservation importance

-  City Boundary
-  Major Roads
-  Lake Okanagan
-  Sensitive Natural Areas in Parks
-  Parks - All Others

Accessible Amount (within 500m walking distance)

- Areas with Access**
 -  > 208 m²/person (high access)
 -  > 91-208 m²/person (moderate access)
 -  < 91 m²/person (below average access)
- Areas without Access**
 -  0 people/km² (no access, no population)
 -  < 500 people/km² (no access, low population)
 -  > 500 people/km² (no access, higher population)

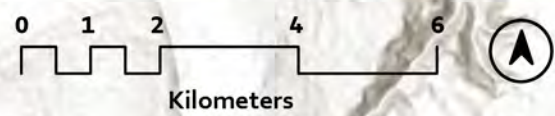
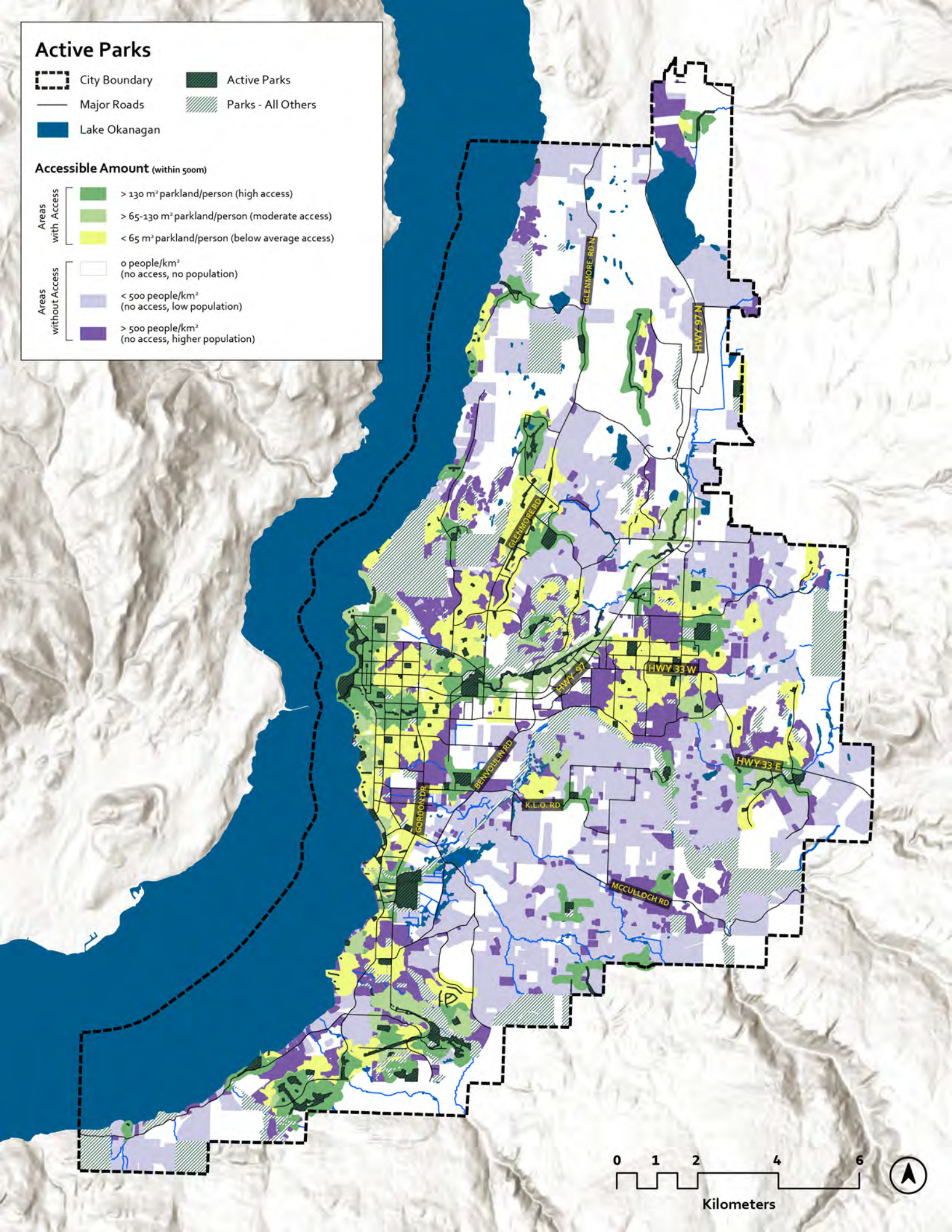


Active Parks

-  City Boundary
-  Major Roads
-  Lake Okanagan
-  Active Parks
-  Parks - All Others

Accessible Amount (within 500m)

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Areas with Access |  | > 130 m ² parkland/person (high access) |
| |  | > 65-130 m ² parkland/person (moderate access) |
| |  | < 65 m ² parkland/person (below average access) |
| Areas without Access |  | 0 people/km ² (no access, no population) |
| |  | < 500 people/km ² (no access, low population) |
| |  | > 500 people/km ² (no access, higher population) |



Existing Park & Amenity Distribution

The following sections provide a high-level summary of current access and distribution of parkland and amenities throughout the City of Kelowna's parks system based on the catchment analysis.

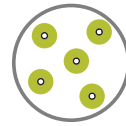
Active Parks

Active Parks serve a different role than other natural and non-municipal open spaces. These areas provide spaces for active play and other formal and informal recreation uses. Usually, these spaces are relatively flat, open green spaces with a variety of programming and amenities to support resident use and enjoyment. In Kelowna, active parks include neighbourhood parks and amenities, community parks and amenities, recreation parks, linear parks, and city-wide parks and amenities.

There are 167 municipal parks in Kelowna. The average provision of Active Parks across the city is 22 m² per person. Access to all active parks is assessed here using a 500m walkable catchment, with 57% of residents having access to municipal park space. The Downtown, Rutland, and Glenmore-Clifton-Dilworth generally have access to parks, although this is below the average accessible amount per person. Areas that are further from Downtown have little or no access to parks, particularly Southeast Kelowna, Belgo-Black Mountain, and parts of Upper and Lower Mission.

Current Level of Service - Active Parks (within 500m)

-
- QUANTITY**
- 167 active municipal parks
-
- ACCESS**
- 57% of residents have access
 - 43% of residents do not have access
-



Local-Level (within 500 m)

Local-level parks and amenities are those that serve vital functions for Kelowna's residents and will be provided throughout the city within walking distance (500m) from homes. These include neighbourhood parks, playgrounds, forested parkland, unprogrammed greenspaces, and linear parks.

Access to Neighbourhood Parks

Neighbourhood parks are centrally located open spaces that serve the residents of a neighbourhood. Ideally, these parks are located within a five-minute walk from most residents of the neighbourhood and generally include playgrounds, picnic areas, and recreational open spaces for users of all ages. It is important for residents to have access to neighbourhood parks, ideally at a walking distance. The amenities provided by neighbourhood parks are more local in nature and are generally the most commonly used. They should therefore be easy for all residents of the neighbourhood to use.

The best access to neighbourhood parks is generally in the centre of the most highly populated communities. The Downtown and Rutland have the best access to neighbourhood parks while the southern half of the city generally lacks access to neighbourhood parks. There are many pockets within densely populated communities, shown in dark purple on Figure 9, that lack access to neighbourhood parks.

Current Level of Service - Neighbourhood Parks (within 500 m)

-
- QUANTITY**
- 116 neighbourhood parks
-
- ACCESS**
- 42% of residents have access
 - 58% of residents do not have access
-



Playgrounds

Playgrounds are a core amenity within neighbourhood parks and are an essential recreational amenity for many families, especially those with younger children. They often include components such as swings, slides, and climbing structures, which allow for unstructured and imaginative play. Playgrounds also provide social opportunities for caregivers as well as opportunities for inter-generational play and connection. As a key amenity for younger children, it is important for them to be within walking distance of residential areas. This makes it easier and safer for parents or other caregivers to access with their kids.

There are 96 playgrounds in the City of Kelowna. The majority are provided by the city, however 18 are provided by schools. Right now, only half of the residents in Kelowna have access to playgrounds within 500 metres of their home. This is a significant gap throughout much of the city, as can be seen by the dark purple locations on the Figure 10. There are also several areas with overlapping service for playgrounds, with much of the Dilworth area being the most highly served.

Current Level of Service - Playgrounds (within 500 m)

QUANTITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 96 (78 City, 18 school)
ACCESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% of residents have access • 50% of residents do not have access



Forested Areas and Canopy Cover

An abundance of trees provides numerous benefits to residents, including providing shade and cleaning the air. Trees and forested areas create a feeling of naturalness and provide spaces for residents to relax and decompress. Forested areas can also house important ecosystems and are key to mitigating and responding to climate change. It is important for trees and canopy cover to be easily accessible for all residents, so that they can reap the many benefits that trees provide to both themselves and the environment.

Just over half of Kelowna's population (54%) does not have access to any forested areas over 1000 metres squared within 500 metres of their home. Some of these large gaps with higher populations include areas surrounding Rutland, Downtown, and Upper and Lower Mission as shown in darkest purple on Figure 11.

Current Level of Service - Forested Areas (within 500 m)

QUANTITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 660 forested areas over 1000m² (within parks)
ACCESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 46% of residents have access • 54% of residents do not have access

Unprogrammed Greenspaces

Unprogrammed open greenspaces are becoming an increasingly important amenity. Across the country and within Kelowna, there has been increasing demand for unprogrammed, flexible spaces such as open fields that can accommodate self-directed recreation – from pickup games of soccer to picnicking and playing frisbee. These spaces are different from a typical bookable field, as they allow different users to informally use and share the same space. These spaces are particularly important for families and help support multi-generational recreation. It is therefore essential that these unprogrammed spaces are within walking distance, so that all residents can regularly use these spaces.

Currently, this is one of the most underserved amenities in the City. Only 26% percent of Kelowna residents have access to this form of flexible non-bookable open green space within 500 m. There are significant gaps in areas such as Glenmore-Clifton-Dillworth, Downtown, South Pandosy-KLO, and Rutland (Figure 12). It is important to note that some of these gaps may not necessarily be caused by lack of parks but actually the level of other development, forested areas, or amenities located in those parks.

Current Level of Service – *Unprogrammed Greenspaces (500 m)*

QUANTITY • 68 spaces over 1000 m² in parks

ACCESS • 26% have access
• 74% do not have access



Linear Parks

The term Linear Parks refers to the network of on- and off-road trails that are developed to serve all forms of non-vehicular movement. The network links points of interest throughout the city and provides healthy and diverse transportation and outdoor recreation opportunities. Where Linear Parks run off-road they often parallel creeks. Linear Parks along creek corridors are located outside the Riparian Management Area (some exceptions apply in mature areas due to site constraints). They are generally a minimum of 10 metres wide, with additional 5 metre buffer zones on each side. Trail corridors may be wider to reflect topographic challenges and to respond to specific on-site conditions. The City's Linear Park Master Plan identifies existing and proposed linear parks and various trail classifications, and outlines trail design and development standards.

Most of the City does not have access to linear parks within 500 metres of their home (80%). The areas that have the most access are generally near existing creeks. There are gaps in access in most urban centres, including Downtown, South Pandosy, and Rutland.

Current Level of Service – *Linear Parks (500 m)*

QUANTITY • 25 parks

ACCESS • 20% have access
• 80% do not have access



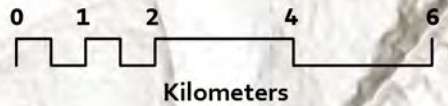
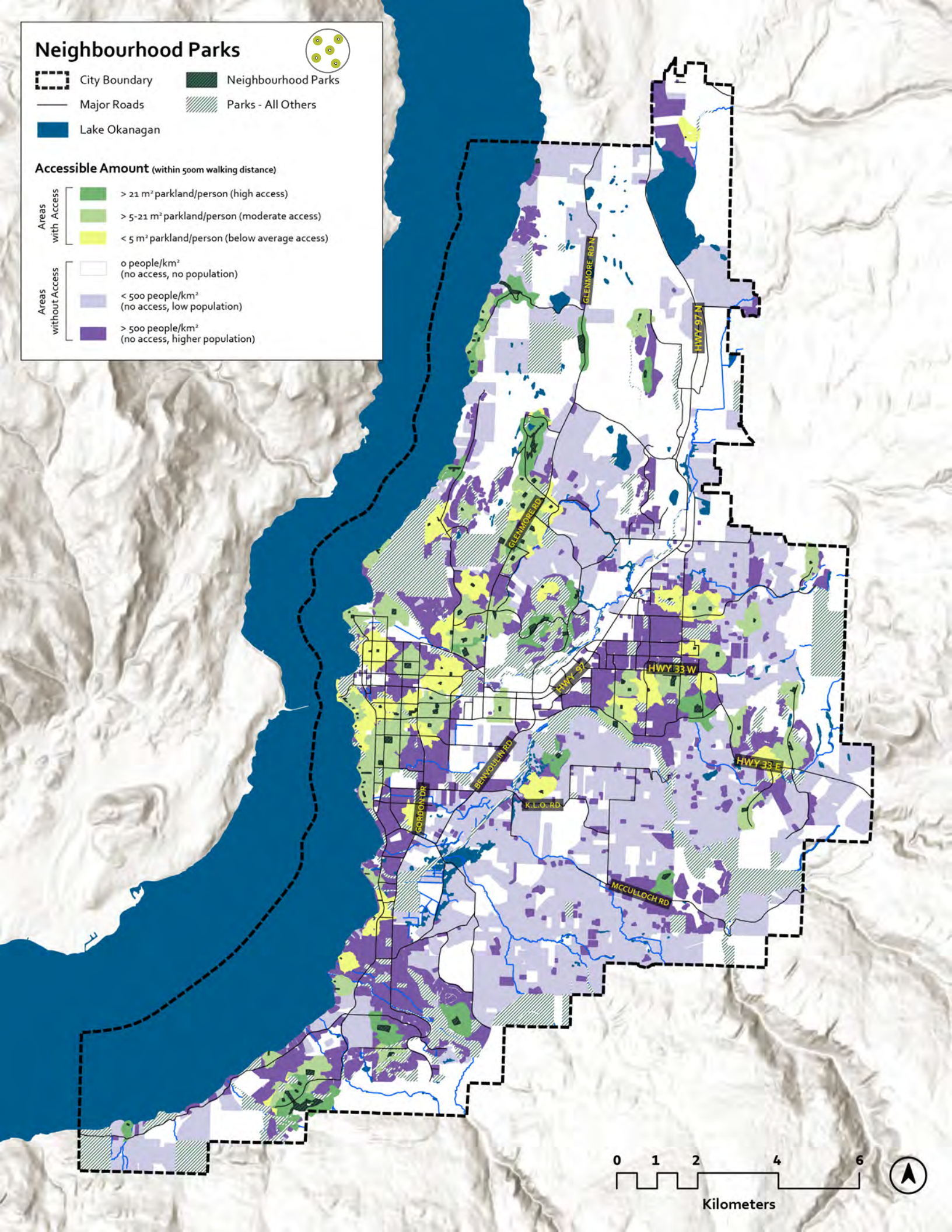
Neighbourhood Parks









- City Boundary
- Major Roads
- Lake Okanagan
- Neighbourhood Parks
- Parks - All Others

Accessible Amount (within 500m walking distance)







- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Areas with Access | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 21 m² parkland/person (high access) > 5-21 m² parkland/person (moderate access) < 5 m² parkland/person (below average access) |
| Areas without Access | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0 people/km² (no access, no population) < 500 people/km² (no access, low population) > 500 people/km² (no access, higher population) |

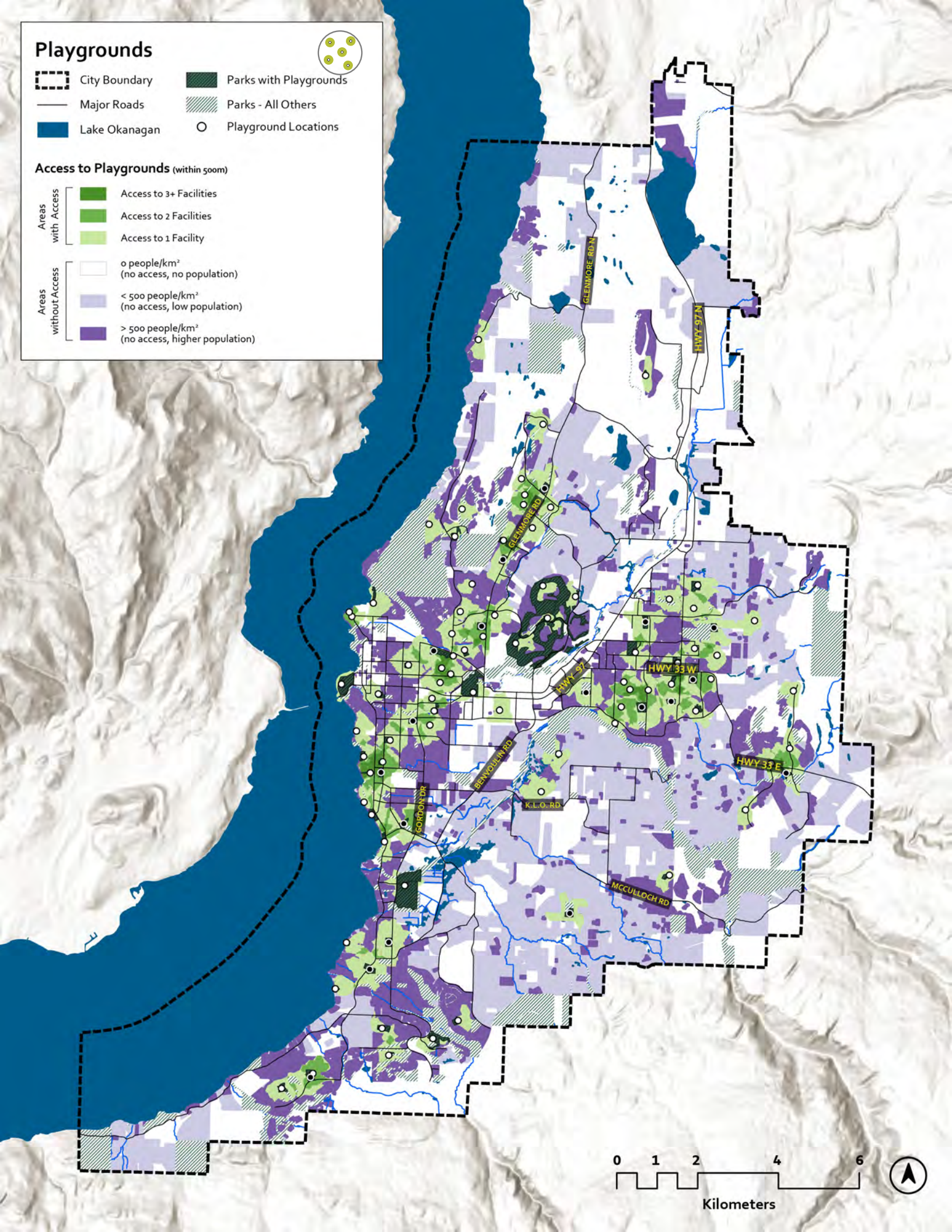


Playgrounds

-  City Boundary
-  Major Roads
-  Lake Okanagan
-  Parks with Playgrounds
-  Parks - All Others
-  Playground Locations

Access to Playgrounds (within 500m)

- Areas with Access**
 -  Access to 3+ Facilities
 -  Access to 2 Facilities
 -  Access to 1 Facility
- Areas without Access**
 -  0 people/km² (no access, no population)
 -  < 500 people/km² (no access, low population)
 -  > 500 people/km² (no access, higher population)



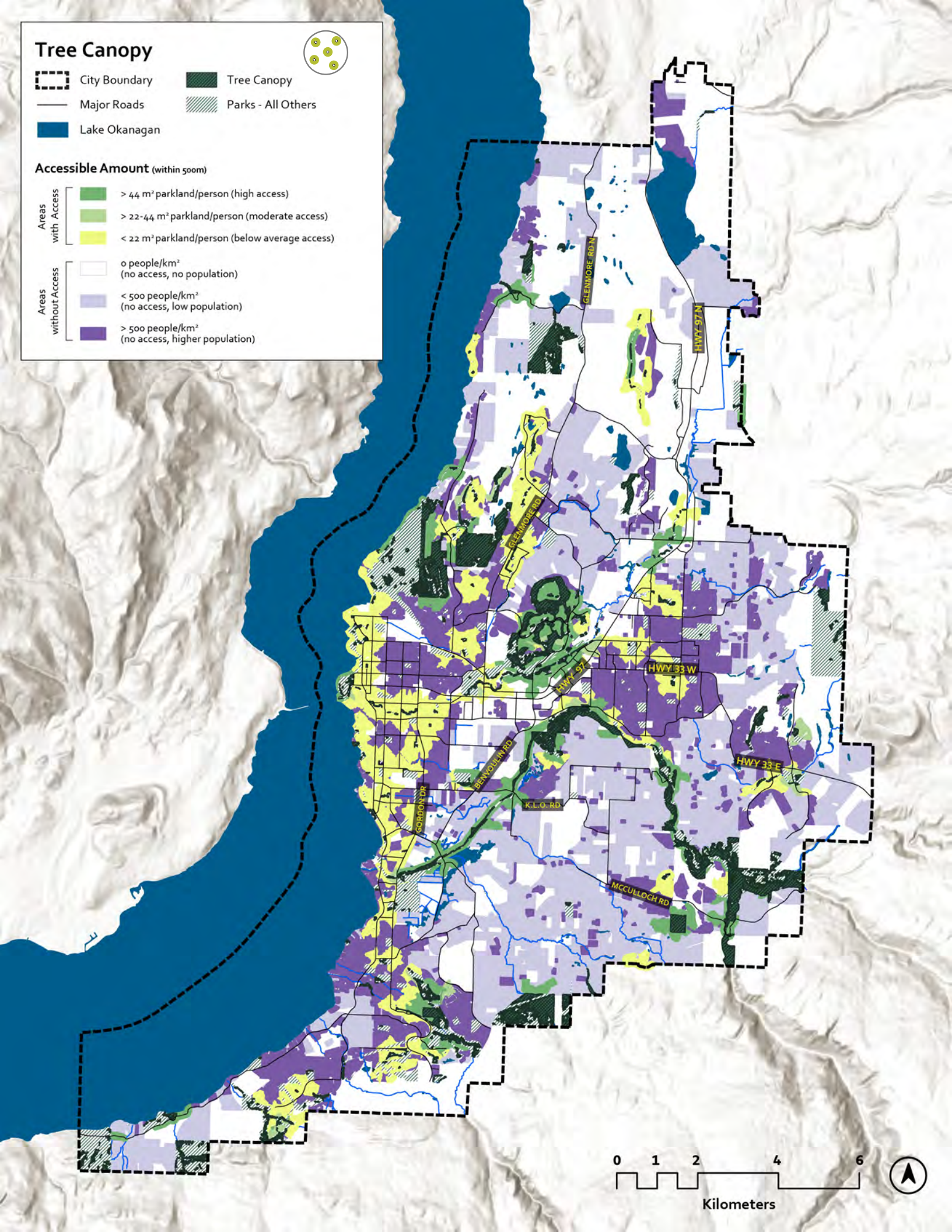
Tree Canopy



- City Boundary
- Major Roads
- Lake Okanagan
- Tree Canopy
- Parks - All Others

Accessible Amount (within 500m)







- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Areas with Access | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 44 m² parkland/person (high access) > 22-44 m² parkland/person (moderate access) < 22 m² parkland/person (below average access) |
| Areas without Access | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0 people/km² (no access, no population) < 500 people/km² (no access, low population) > 500 people/km² (no access, higher population) |

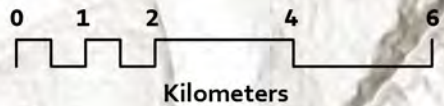
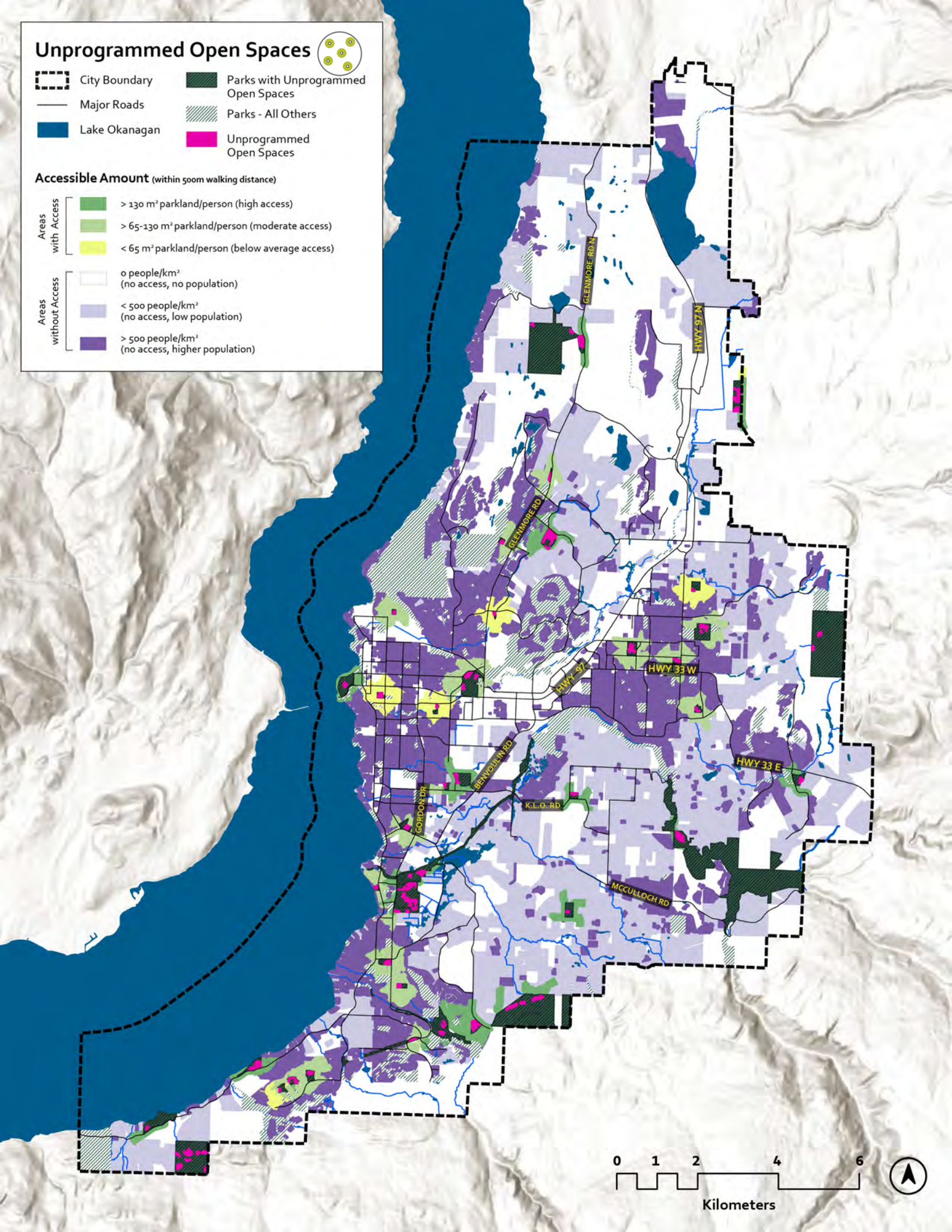


Unprogrammed Open Spaces

-  City Boundary
-  Major Roads
-  Lake Okanagan
-  Parks with Unprogrammed Open Spaces
-  Parks - All Others
-  Unprogrammed Open Spaces

Accessible Amount (within 500m walking distance)

- Areas with Access**
-  > 130 m² parkland/person (high access)
-  > 65-130 m² parkland/person (moderate access)
-  < 65 m² parkland/person (below average access)
- Areas without Access**
-  0 people/km² (no access, no population)
-  < 500 people/km² (no access, low population)
-  > 500 people/km² (no access, higher population)

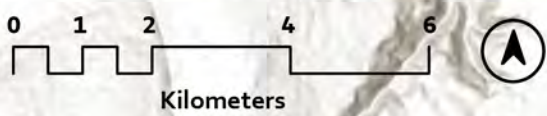
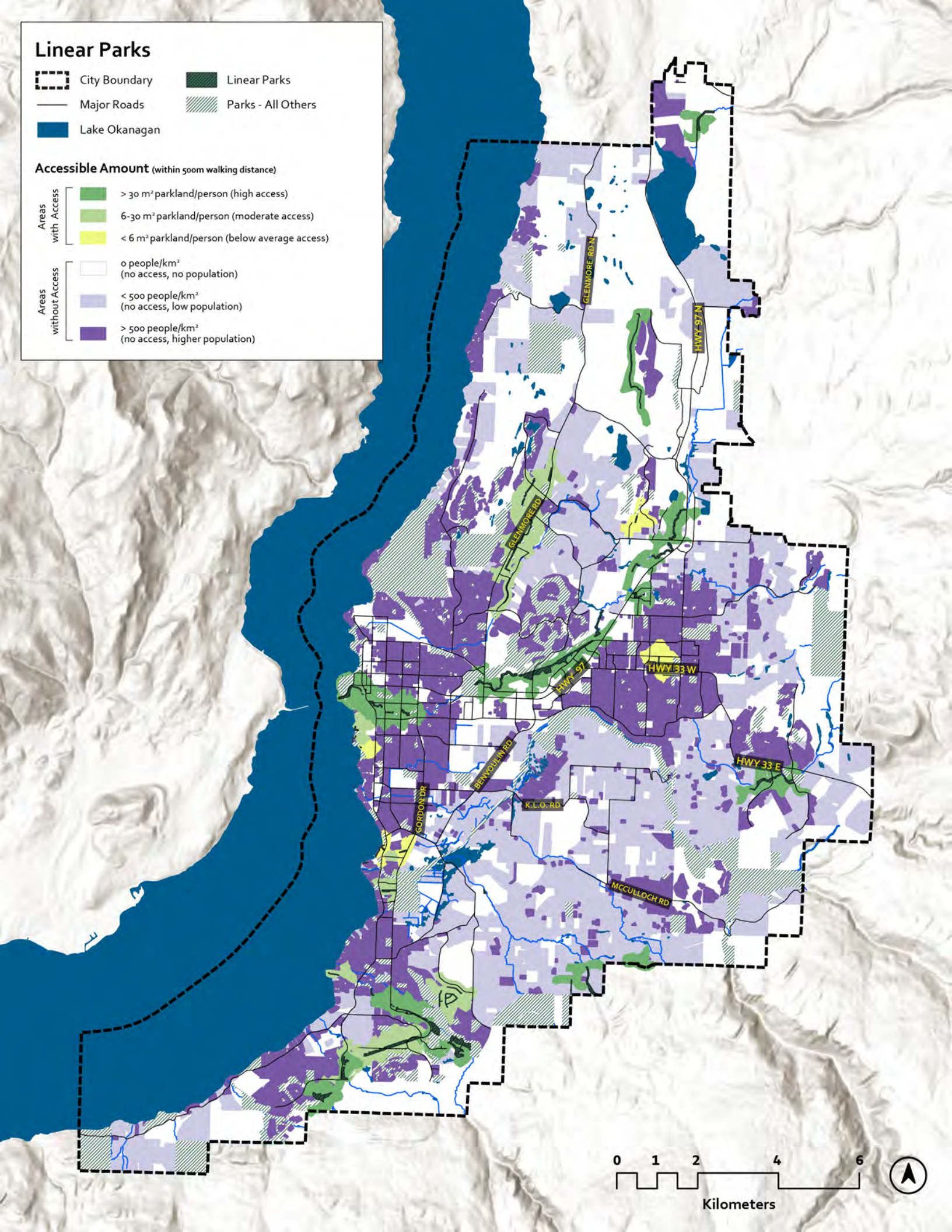


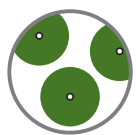
Linear Parks

-  City Boundary
-  Major Roads
-  Lake Okanagan
-  Linear Parks
-  Parks - All Others

Accessible Amount (within 500m walking distance)

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Areas with Access |  | > 30 m ² parkland/person (high access) |
| |  | 6-30 m ² parkland/person (moderate access) |
| |  | < 6 m ² parkland/person (below average access) |
| Areas without Access |  | 0 people/km ² (no access, no population) |
| |  | < 500 people/km ² (no access, low population) |
| |  | > 500 people/km ² (no access, higher population) |





Central-Level (within 3 km)

Central-level parks and amenities should ideally be located frequently throughout the city and support a variety of modes of access. They are currently well-distributed across the city, but at a broader spacing. Access, defined as being within a 3 km distance, to these features may not be within walking distance for all residents.. These amenities are assessed using a 3km catchment to identify the relative diversity and distribution provided across the city. These amenities include community parks, basketball courts, off-leash dog parks, tennis and pickleball courts, washrooms, water access (beaches, public right-of-ways adjacent to the lake, and splash pads and water parks), bookable event spaces, community gardens, ice skating areas, and skate parks.

Access to Community Parks

Community Parks are larger open spaces that serve multiple neighbourhoods. They often contain similar amenities to neighbourhood parks, such as playgrounds and spaces for unstructured activities. They often contain amenities for higher intensity recreational uses and sports as well. This includes multi-recreational courts for tennis, basketball, hockey, and lacrosse, some of which are bookable. As these spaces are more than a five minute walk for most residents, they should be designed to be accessible through multiple modes of transportation, including walking, cycling, and transit.

Most areas of the city have some access to community level parks within 3 km. However, many areas of the city have below average access to community level parks, including the Downtown and most of the areas near the waterfront. The southern half of the city and the Rutland area generally has more access to community parks while Dilworth and parts of Lower Mission do not have access.

Current Level of Service – *Community Parks (within 3 km)*

-
- QUANTITY**
- 20 community parks
-
- ACCESS**
- 81% of residents have access
 - 19% of residents do not have access
-

Basketball

Basketball continues to be a popular sport nationwide. Basketball courts generally include hardscaped areas with one or more basketball nets. These courts are quite flexible and can be used for other activities requiring hardscaped areas such as ball hockey. Basketball courts are an important amenity for youth, requiring minimal equipment to use and providing a social space to engage with one another.

There are currently 29 basketball courts in Kelowna. 85% of residents have access to these facilities within 3 km while 15% do not. Most of the central areas have access to at least one basketball court, with many residents in these areas having access to 3 or more basketball facilities. There are some pockets of limited access, including the Dilworth area in the Glenmore-Clifton-Dilworth community, and the eastern parts of Upper and Lower Mission. It may be worth considering measuring this within the context of neighbourhood park to get a better sense of accessibility and overall equity throughout the city.

Current Level of Service – *Basketball (within 3 km)*

-
- QUANTITY**
- 29 basketball courts
-
- ACCESS**
- 85% of residents have access
 - 15% of residents do not have access
-

Off-Leash Dog Parks

Off-leash dog parks are becoming increasingly important. Many individuals and families, particularly those in urban settings, rely on off-leash dog parks as a space for their dogs to freely and safely exercise and play. Off-leash dog parks help avoid potential user conflicts between dogs, dog owners, and other park users.

There are currently 13 dog parks in Kelowna. About 65% of residents have access within 3 km while 35% do not. The Central City area has the most access while most other neighbourhoods, including Rutland, Upper and Lower Mission, and Glenmore-Clifton-Dilworth lack access to dog parks.

Current Level of Service – *Off-Leash Dog Parks (3 km)*

-
- QUANTITY**
- 13 dog parks
-
- ACCESS**
- 65% of residents have access
 - 35% of residents do not have access
-



Tennis/Pickleball

While tennis continues to be played amongst residents, pickleball is becoming an increasingly popular activity across the nation, particularly with older populations. Within Kelowna, pickleball participation is expected to increase. Tennis and pickleball courts generally consist of a fenced hardscape court with a net. As an activity requiring minimal equipment, both tennis and pickleball are widely accessible for people to play both casually and competitively.

There are currently 15 tennis and pickleball courts in Kelowna. 75% of residents have access to these facilities within 3 km while 25% do not. Tennis and pickleball courts are mostly located in the central parts of the city, especially near the Downtown. The southern half of the city lacks tennis and pickleball courts, particularly the Upper and Lower Mission communities. There is also a lack of tennis courts in the Glenmore-Clifton-Dilworth area.

Current Level of Service – *Tennis/Pickleball (3 km)*

-
- QUANTITY**
- 15 tennis/pickleball courts
-
- ACCESS**
- 75% of residents have access
 - 25% of residents do not have access
-



Washrooms

Incorporating public washrooms into parks spaces is essential to ensure that these spaces remain accessible for all users. This is particularly true for seniors or families with children where a lack of washrooms can serve as a barrier to accessing certain parks and their facilities. The location and facilities of larger, community parks generally mean that residents are further from home and are staying longer than they would in their local neighbourhood park. Therefore, users require washrooms in order to fully use these spaces. These public washroom facilities can range from porta-potties to full size washrooms. Washrooms should also include access to clean drinking water / fountains.

Currently within Kelowna, there are 21 washroom facilities. 65% of residents have access within 3 km while 35% do not. There are 19 parks that currently have washrooms. Most washroom facilities are located Downtown or near the waterfront. There are also some washroom facilities located in the Rutland area.

Current Level of Service – *Washrooms (3 km)*

-
- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| QUANTITY | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 21 washroom facilities |
| ACCESS | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 65% of residents have access• 35% of residents do not have access |
-



Water Access

Water-based recreation and play are increasing in popularity, meaning that access to water has also become more important for residents. Water access can include proximity to natural water sources such as rivers and lakes, as well as splash pads, waterparks, and other water-play facilities. It can also include waterfront parks, with amenities for boating, paddling, and other recreational activities.

There are currently 49 water access points. 46 of these are lake access points while 3 are waterparks. 60% of residents have access within 3 km while 40% do not. Within Kelowna, most water access is along the Okanagan Lake waterfront. There are currently three waterparks in the city, located in the Downtown, Rutland, and Lower Mission.

Current Level of Service – *Water Access (3 km)*

-
- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| QUANTITY | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 49 water access points |
| ACCESS | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 60% of residents have access• 40% of residents do not have access |
-



Bookable Event Spaces

Bookable event spaces can consist of a variety of different spaces, both indoor and outdoor. They allow residents to host events and gatherings, creating an enjoyable social environment and a sense of community. Including bookable event spaces within a walking, cycling, or short driving distance is important to allow residents to gather, celebrate, and socialize with their families, friends, and fellow residents.

There are 17 bookable event spaces in Kelowna. 66% of residents have access within 3 km while 34% do not. Currently, most bookable event spaces are located along the waterfront and in the Downtown areas. The Rutland community also has access to a number of bookable event spaces. The Dilworth, Mission, and Black Mountain areas are particularly underserved.

Current Level of Service – *Bookable Event Spaces (3 km)*

-
- QUANTITY**
- 17 bookable event spaces
-
- ACCESS**
- 66% of residents have access
 - 34% of residents do not have access
-



Community Gardens

Community gardens provide a number of benefits for residents, such as providing fresh food, relieving stress, and providing social opportunities and a sense of community. Community gardens can help alleviate food deserts and improve food security for residents. As a place to come together, community gardens should be easily accessible for all residents and should be well connected to transit and cycle routes.

There are 12 formal community gardens in Kelowna. 70% of residents have access to them within 3 km of their homes while 30% do not. Currently, access to community gardens is concentrated in the Downtown and surrounding areas, as well as the Rutland area. The waterfront and parts of Lower Mission also have access to community gardens. On the other hand, the Dilworth, South Kelowna, and Black Mountain areas do not have as much access to community gardens.

Current Level of Service – *Community Gardens (3 km)*

-
- QUANTITY**
- 12 community gardens
-
- ACCESS**
- 70% of residents have access
 - 30% of residents do not have access
-



Public Art

Public art serves as a celebration of community and community values. It can also be used to help make public spaces more welcoming of equity-seeking groups. The upcoming Public Art Master Plan will help define future opportunities for public art.

There are 83 public art installations in Kelowna. 72% of residents have access to them within 3 km of their homes while 28% do not. Currently, most public art in the city is concentrated in the Downtown. Large portions of the city have access to public art, particularly the Central City, Rutland, South Pandosy-KLO, and Upper and Lower Mission. The university area also has good access to public art. However, parts of Glenmore-Clifton-Dilworth and the southern half of Kelowna lack access to public art.

Current Level of Service – *Public Art (3 km)*

- QUANTITY**
- 83 public art installations
- ACCESS**
- 72% of residents have access
 - 28% of residents do not have access



Outdoor Ice Skating

Ice skating facilities usually consist of an ice surface that may or may not be boarded. They may be either indoor or outdoor. These surfaces can be used for recreational skating and ice sports such as hockey. They are also used for organized sports. Having ice surfaces within 3 kilometres is important to ensure that families have access to these sports, especially as hockey continues to be a popular sport across the country.

There are 4 ice facilities in Kelowna. Only 29% of residents have access within 3 km while 71% of residents do not. Currently, many areas in the city do not have access to ice facilities. Areas in the Central City community have access to an ice facility, as do some of the most southern parts of the city. Most other areas, do not have access to ice facilities.

Current Level of Service – *Outdoor Ice Skating (3 km)*

- QUANTITY**
- 4 ice facilities
- ACCESS**
- 29% of residents have access
 - 71% of residents do not have access

Skate Parks

Skate parks are an important amenity for young people. They provide a safe space for many wheeled activities, including skateboarding, longboarding, BMXing, scootering and roller skating. They also function as a social space and foster a sense of community for action sport enthusiasts.

Within Kelowna, there are 7 skate park facilities. 43% of residents have access within while 57% do not. These facilities are primarily located near the Downtown and in the Rutland and Glenmore-Clifton-Dilworth communities. The rest of Kelowna, including the entire southern half of the city, does not have access to skate park facilities. However a permanent skateboard facility is planned for in the city's 10-year Capital Plan.

Current Level of Service – *Skate Parks (3 km)*

- QUANTITY**
- 7 skate park facilities
- ACCESS**
- 43% of residents have access
 - 57% of residents do not have access

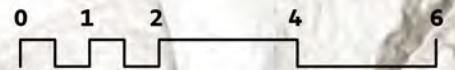
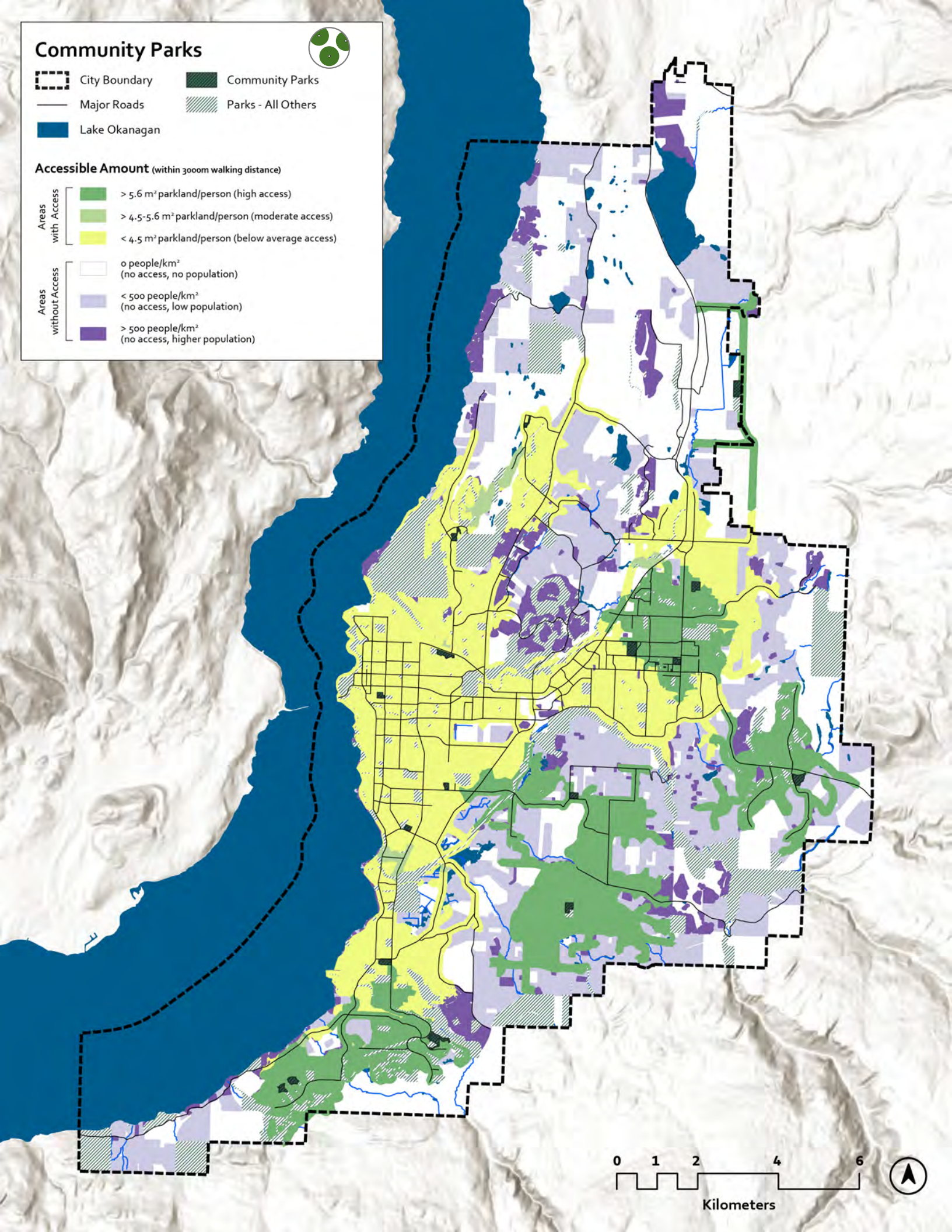
Community Parks



- City Boundary
- Major Roads
- Lake Okanagan
- Community Parks
- Parks - All Others

Accessible Amount (within 3000m walking distance)

- Areas with Access**
 - > 5.6 m² parkland/person (high access)
 - > 4.5-5.6 m² parkland/person (moderate access)
 - < 4.5 m² parkland/person (below average access)
- Areas without Access**
 - 0 people/km² (no access, no population)
 - < 500 people/km² (no access, low population)
 - > 500 people/km² (no access, higher population)



Kilometers



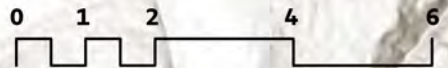
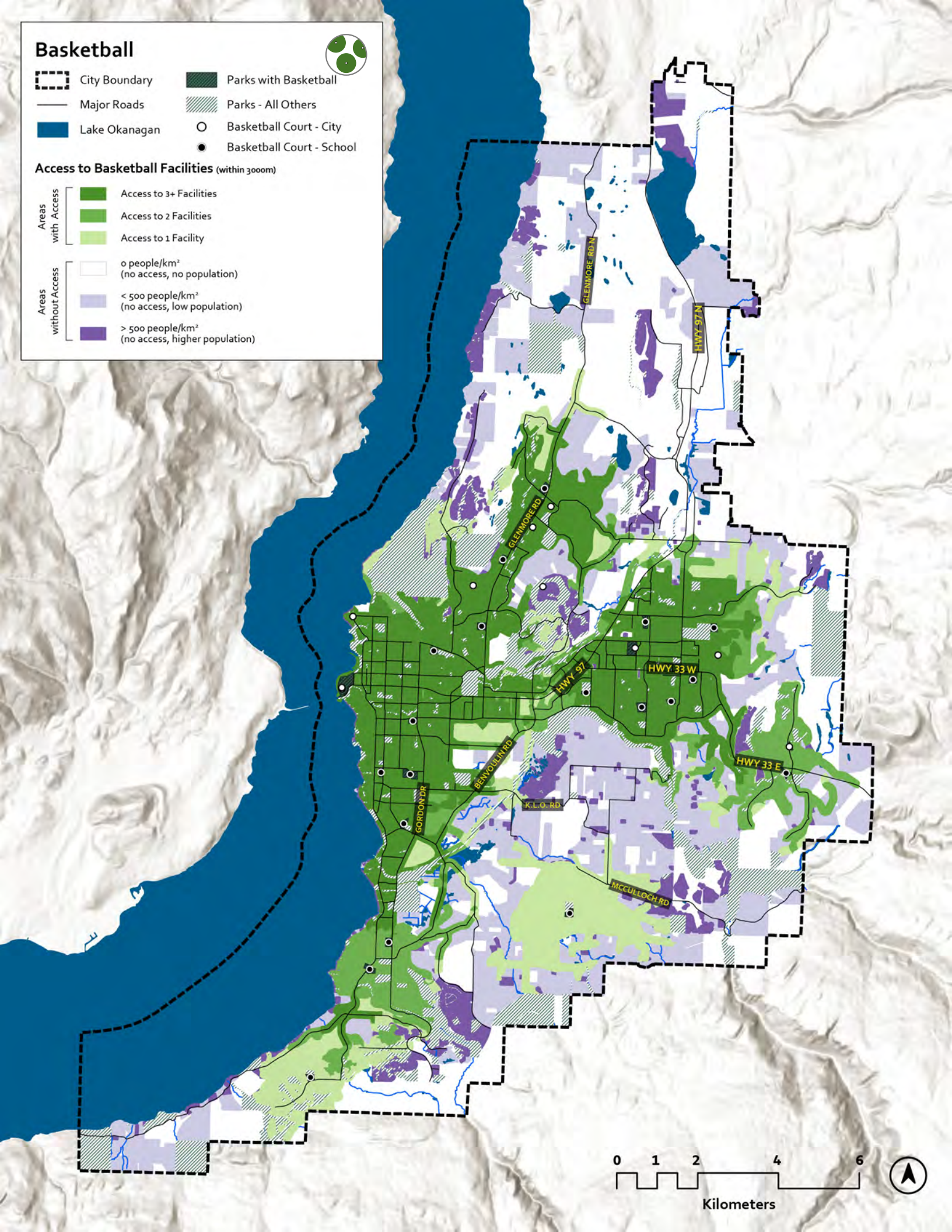
Basketball



- City Boundary
- Major Roads
- Lake Okanagan
- Parks with Basketball
- Parks - All Others
- Basketball Court - City
- Basketball Court - School

Access to Basketball Facilities (within 3000m)

- Areas with Access**
 - Access to 3+ Facilities
 - Access to 2 Facilities
 - Access to 1 Facility
- Areas without Access**
 - 0 people/km² (no access, no population)
 - < 500 people/km² (no access, low population)
 - > 500 people/km² (no access, higher population)



Kilometers

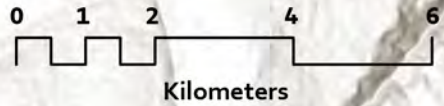
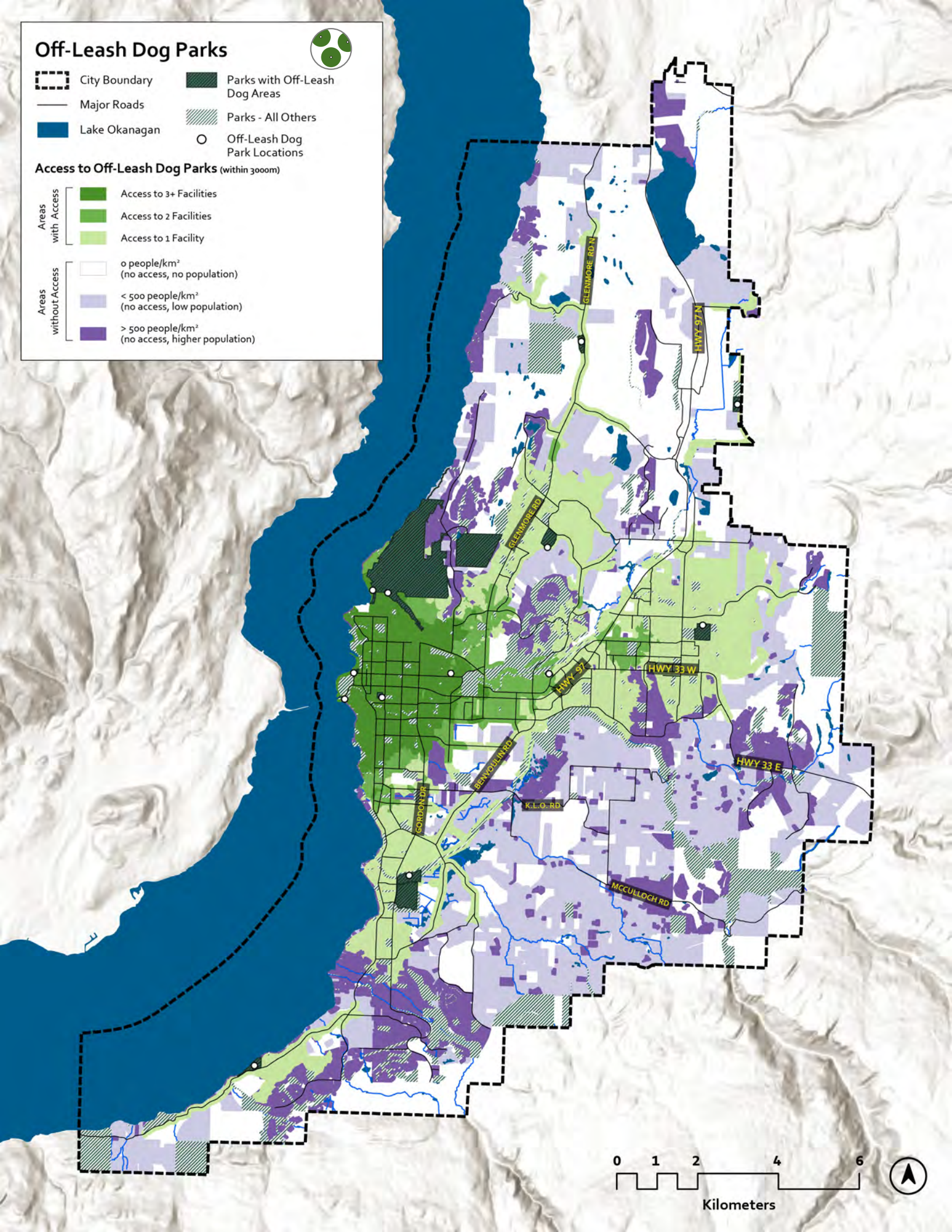
Off-Leash Dog Parks



- City Boundary
- Major Roads
- Lake Okanagan
- Parks with Off-Leash Dog Areas
- Parks - All Others
- Off-Leash Dog Park Locations

Access to Off-Leash Dog Parks (within 3000m)

- Areas with Access**
- Access to 3+ Facilities
- Access to 2 Facilities
- Access to 1 Facility
- Areas without Access**
- 0 people/km² (no access, no population)
- < 500 people/km² (no access, low population)
- > 500 people/km² (no access, higher population)



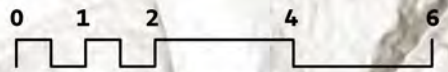
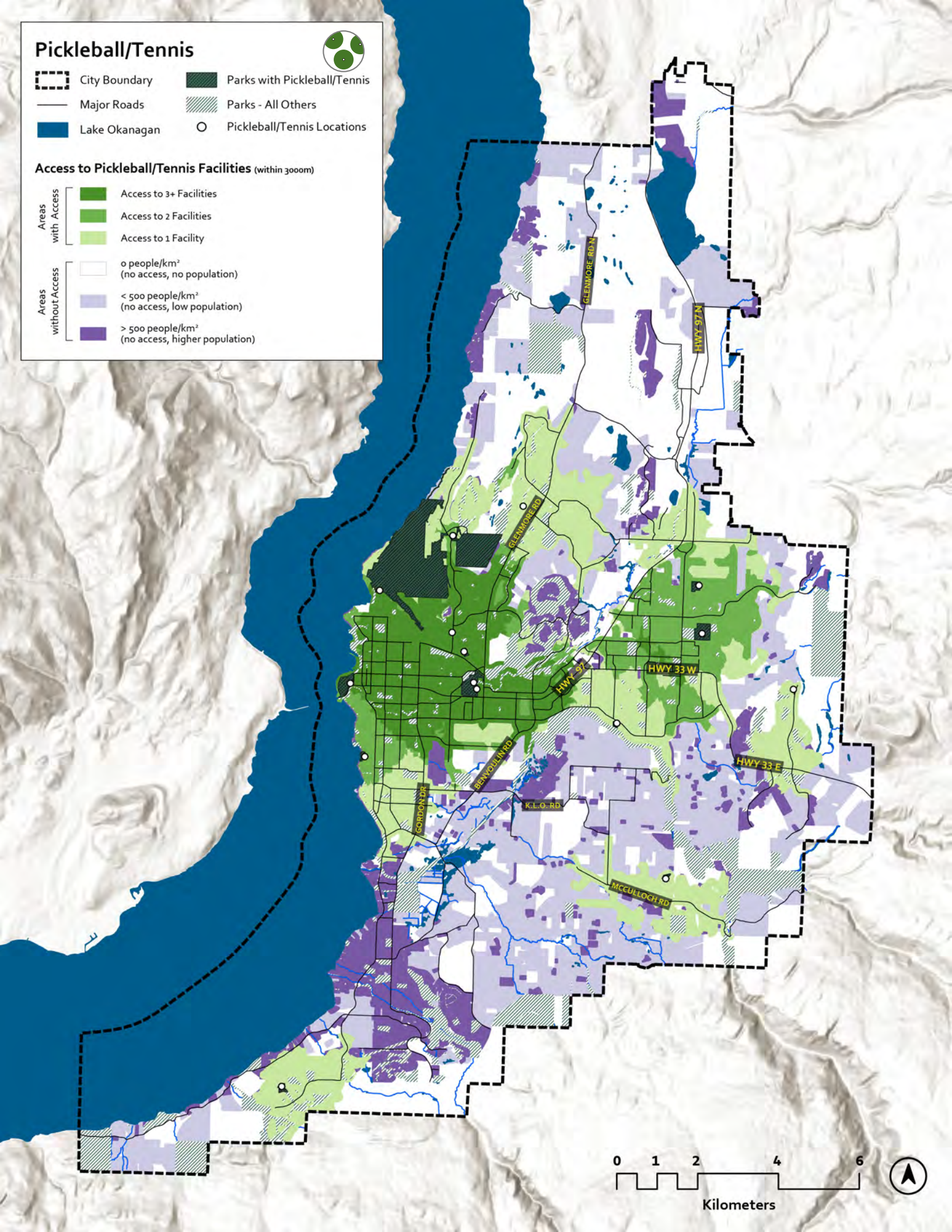
Pickleball/Tennis



- City Boundary
- Major Roads
- Lake Okanagan
- Parks with Pickleball/Tennis
- Parks - All Others
- Pickleball/Tennis Locations

Access to Pickleball/Tennis Facilities (within 3000m)

- Areas with Access**
 - Access to 3+ Facilities
 - Access to 2 Facilities
 - Access to 1 Facility
- Areas without Access**
 - 0 people/km² (no access, no population)
 - < 500 people/km² (no access, low population)
 - > 500 people/km² (no access, higher population)



Kilometers

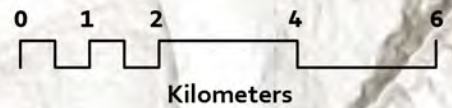
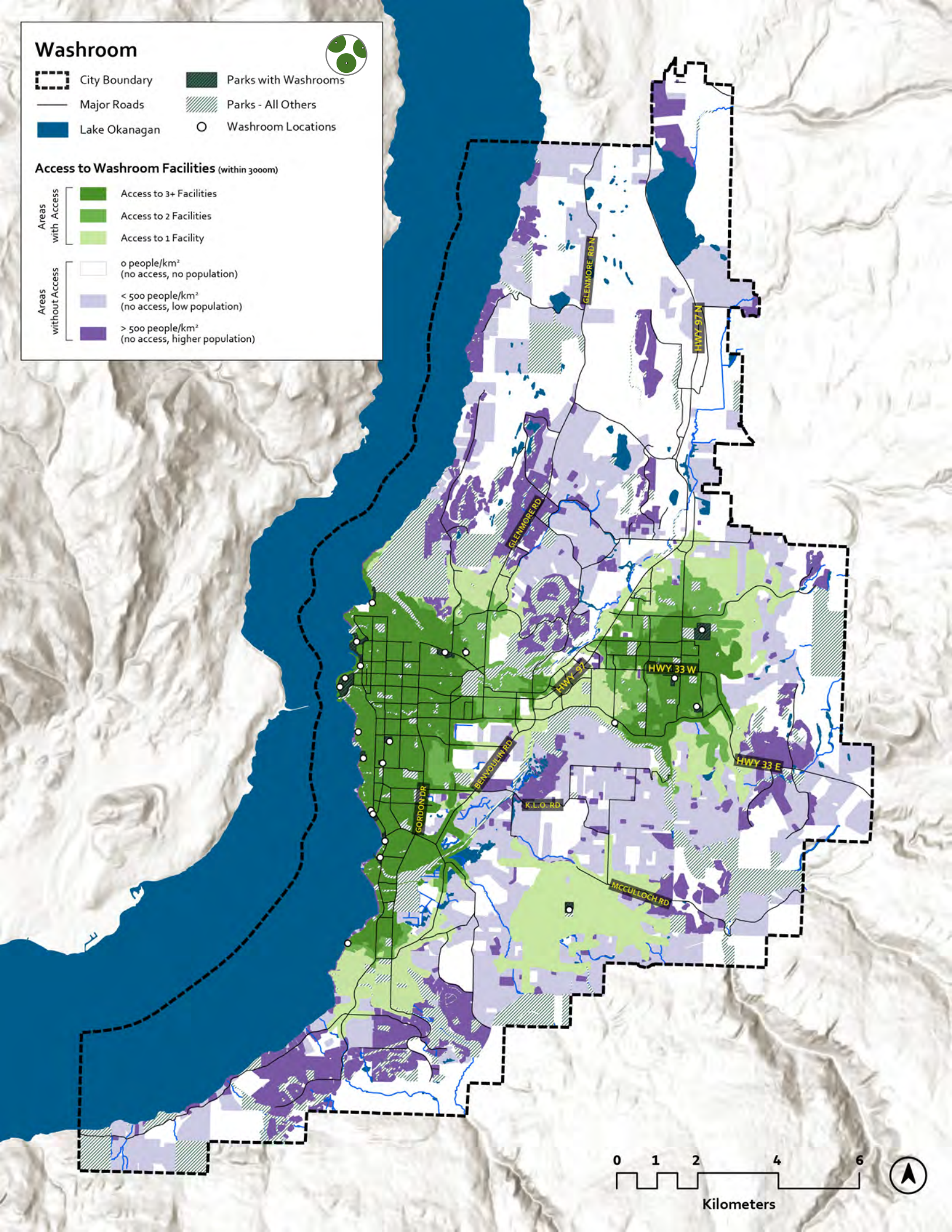
Washroom



- City Boundary
- Major Roads
- Lake Okanagan
- Parks with Washrooms
- Parks - All Others
- Washroom Locations

Access to Washroom Facilities (within 3000m)

- Areas with Access**
 - Access to 3+ Facilities
 - Access to 2 Facilities
 - Access to 1 Facility
- Areas without Access**
 - 0 people/km² (no access, no population)
 - < 500 people/km² (no access, low population)
 - > 500 people/km² (no access, higher population)



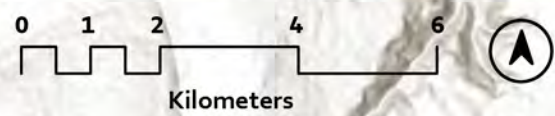
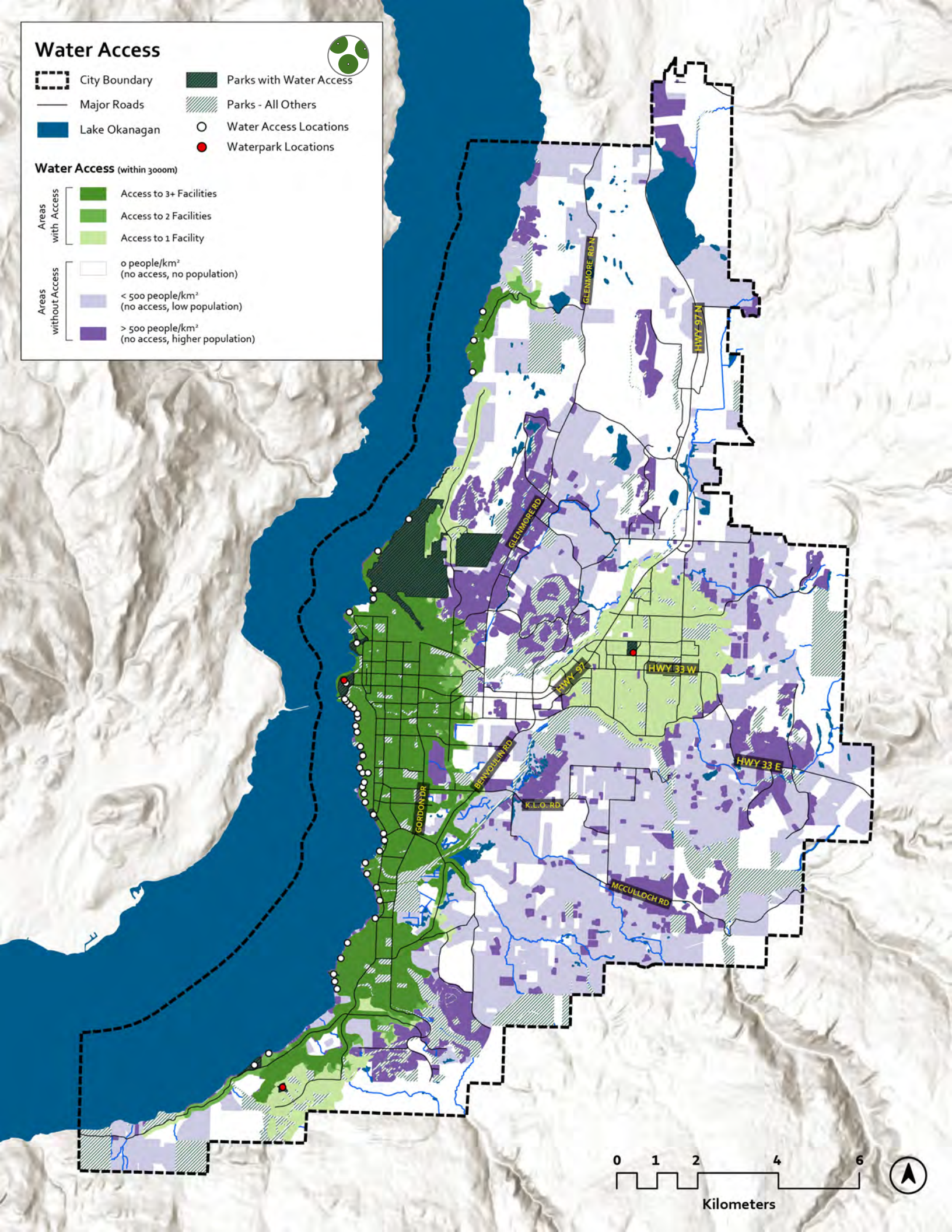
Water Access



- City Boundary
- Major Roads
- Lake Okanagan
- Parks with Water Access
- Parks - All Others
- Water Access Locations
- Waterpark Locations

Water Access (within 3000m)

- Areas with Access**
 - Access to 3+ Facilities
 - Access to 2 Facilities
 - Access to 1 Facility
- Areas without Access**
 - 0 people/km² (no access, no population)
 - < 500 people/km² (no access, low population)
 - > 500 people/km² (no access, higher population)



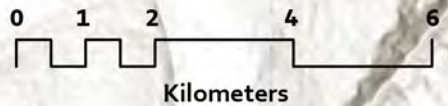
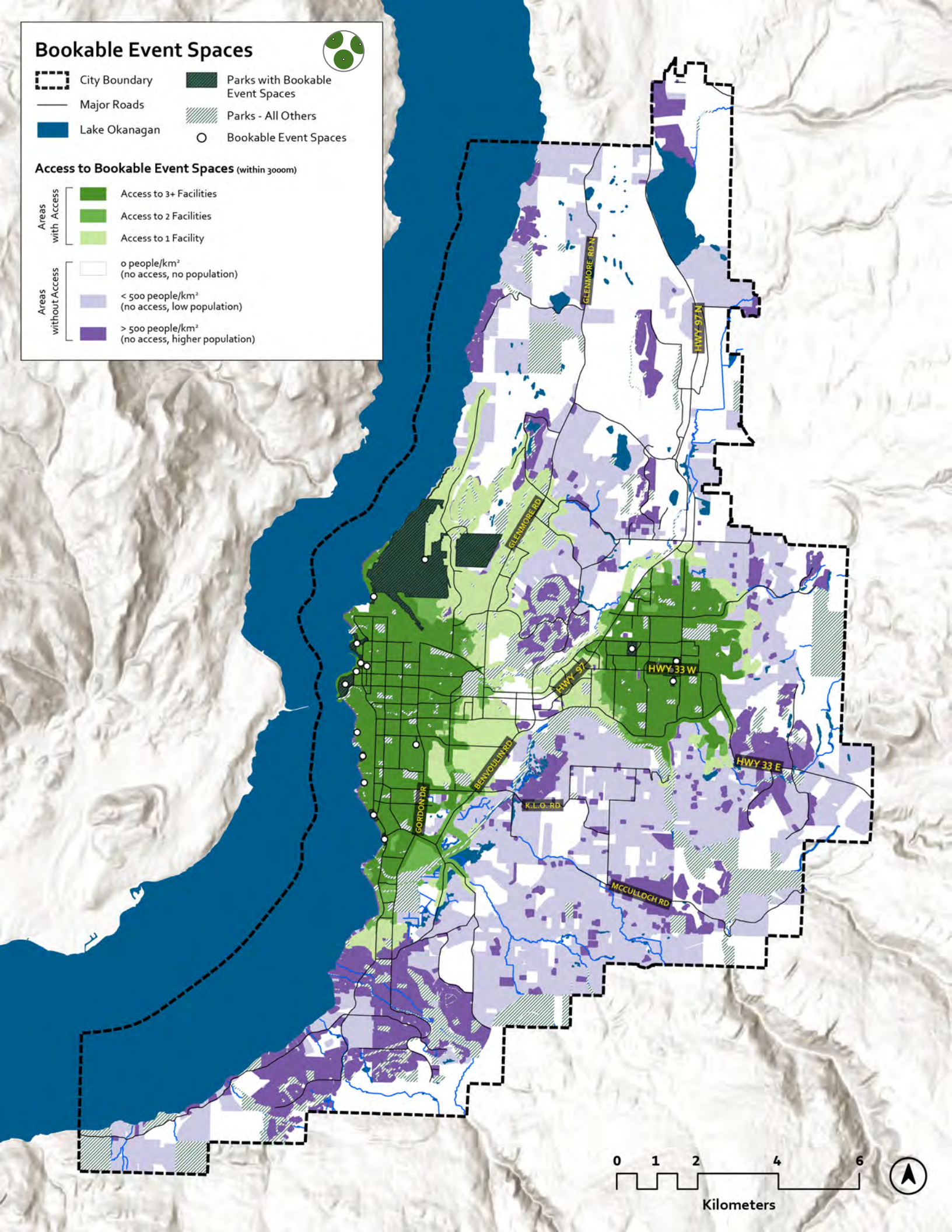
Bookable Event Spaces



- City Boundary
- Major Roads
- Lake Okanagan
- Parks with Bookable Event Spaces
- Parks - All Others
- Bookable Event Spaces

Access to Bookable Event Spaces (within 3000m)

- Areas with Access**
 - Access to 3+ Facilities
 - Access to 2 Facilities
 - Access to 1 Facility
- Areas without Access**
 - 0 people/km² (no access, no population)
 - < 500 people/km² (no access, low population)
 - > 500 people/km² (no access, higher population)



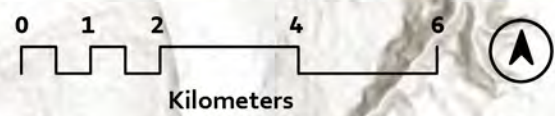
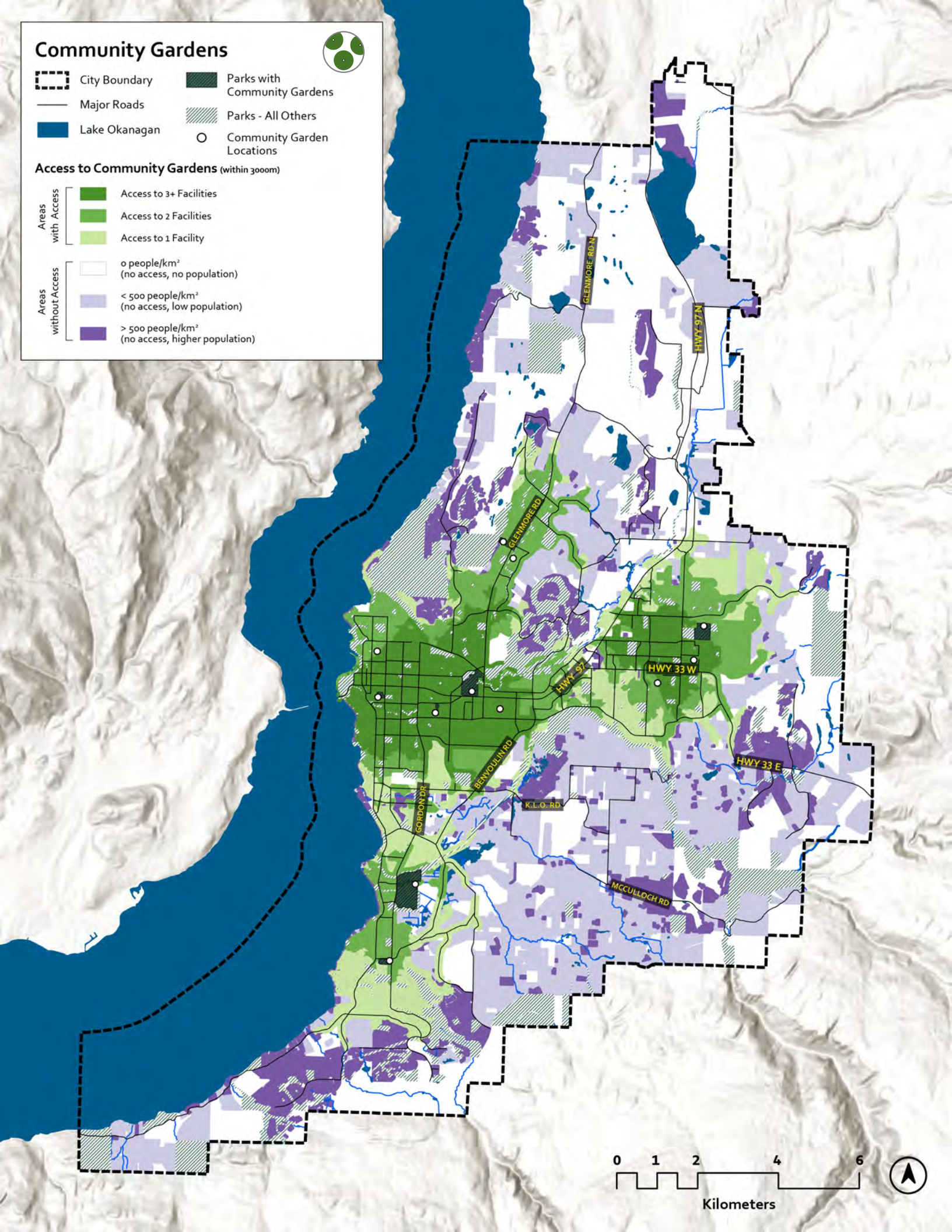
Community Gardens



- City Boundary
- Major Roads
- Lake Okanagan
- Parks with Community Gardens
- Parks - All Others
- Community Garden Locations

Access to Community Gardens (within 3000m)

- Areas with Access**
- Access to 3+ Facilities
- Access to 2 Facilities
- Access to 1 Facility
- Areas without Access**
- 0 people/km² (no access, no population)
- < 500 people/km² (no access, low population)
- > 500 people/km² (no access, higher population)



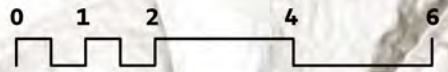
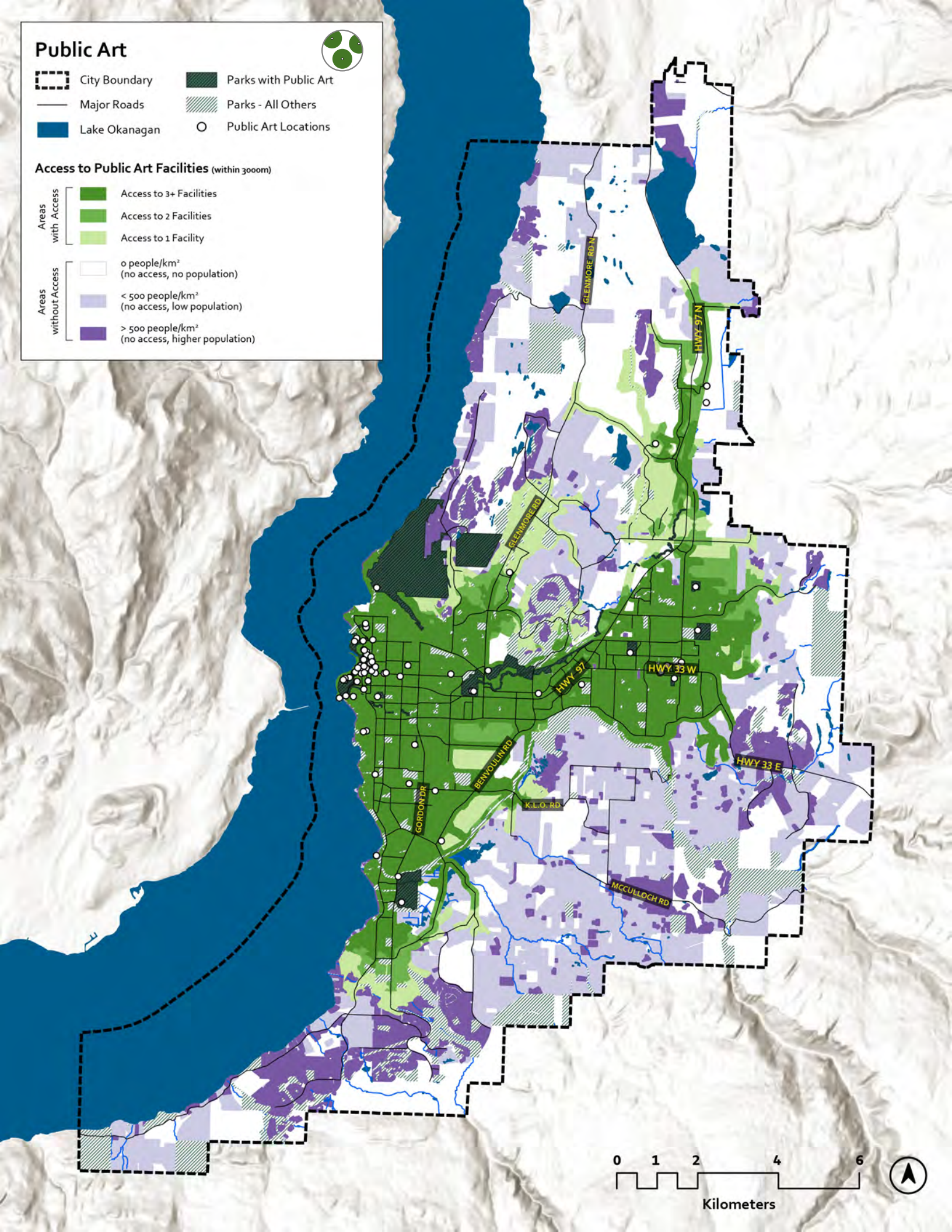
Public Art



- City Boundary
- Major Roads
- Lake Okanagan
- Parks with Public Art
- Parks - All Others
- Public Art Locations

Access to Public Art Facilities (within 3000m)

- Areas with Access**
 - Access to 3+ Facilities
 - Access to 2 Facilities
 - Access to 1 Facility
- Areas without Access**
 - 0 people/km² (no access, no population)
 - < 500 people/km² (no access, low population)
 - > 500 people/km² (no access, higher population)



Kilometers

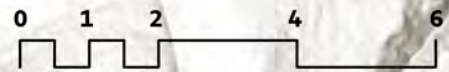
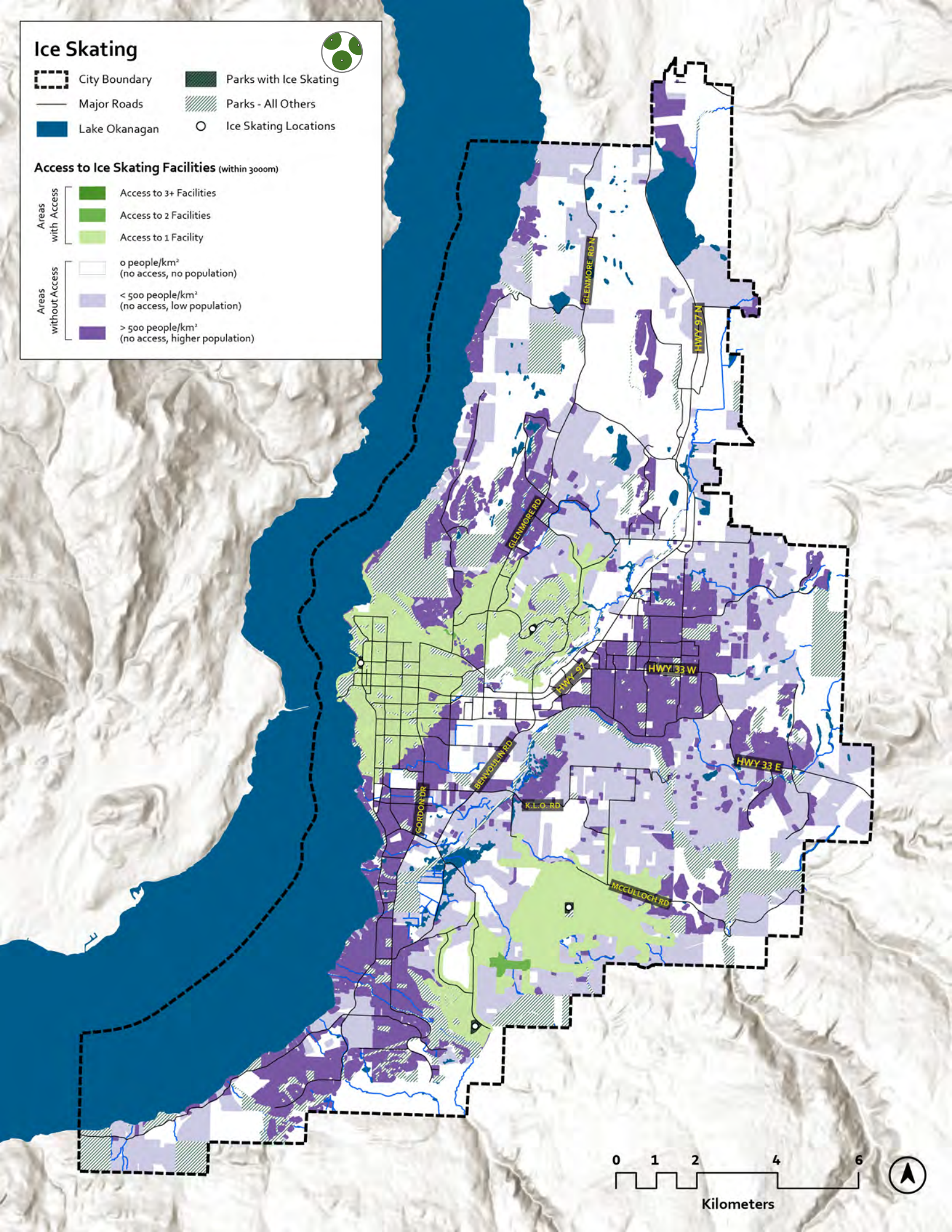
Ice Skating



- City Boundary
- Major Roads
- Lake Okanagan
- Parks with Ice Skating
- Parks - All Others
- Ice Skating Locations

Access to Ice Skating Facilities (within 3000m)

- Areas with Access**
 - Access to 3+ Facilities
 - Access to 2 Facilities
 - Access to 1 Facility
- Areas without Access**
 - 0 people/km² (no access, no population)
 - < 500 people/km² (no access, low population)
 - > 500 people/km² (no access, higher population)



Kilometers

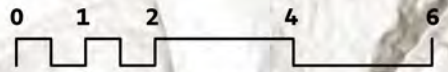
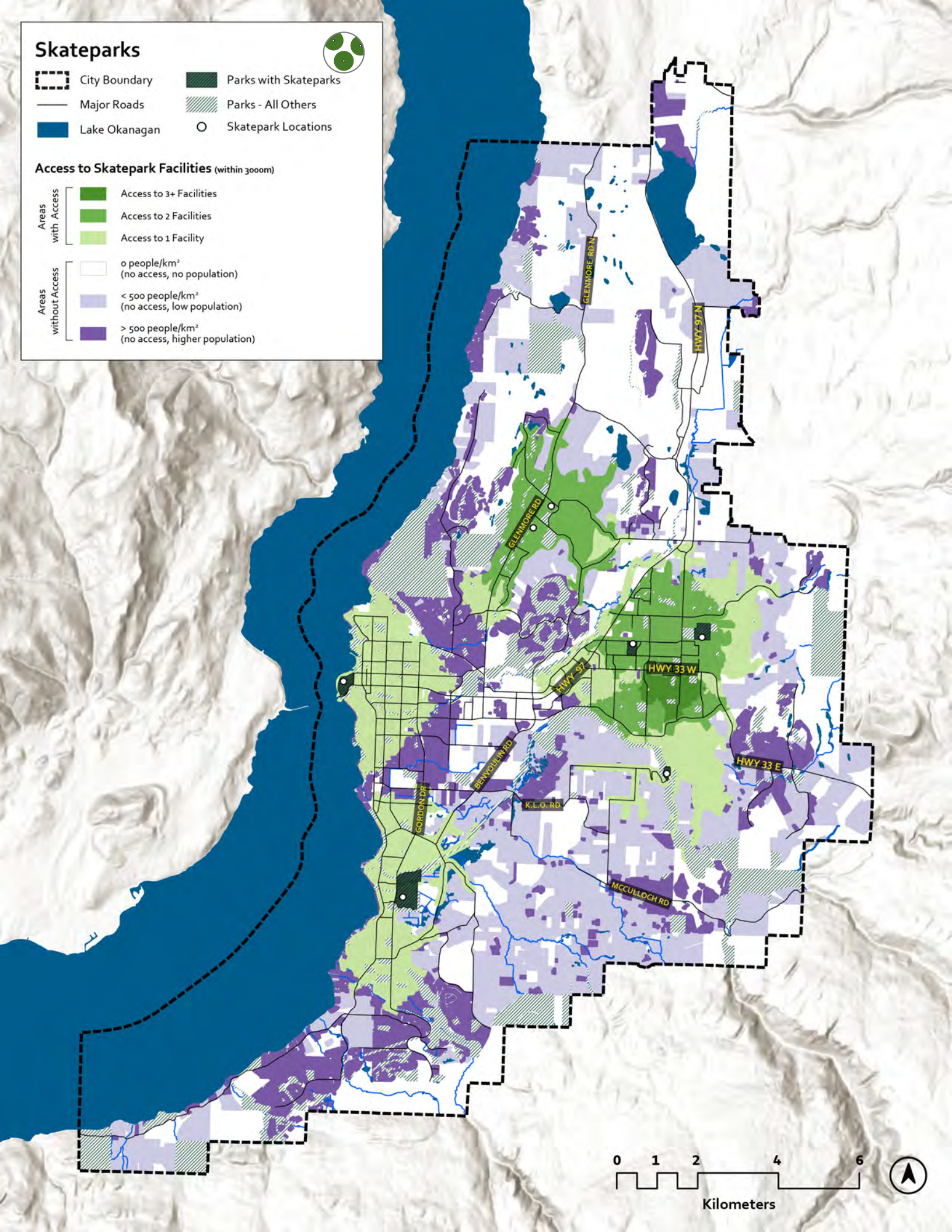
Skateparks



- City Boundary
- Major Roads
- Lake Okanagan
- Parks with Skateparks
- Parks - All Others
- Skatepark Locations

Access to Skatepark Facilities (within 3000m)

- Areas with Access**
 - Access to 3+ Facilities
 - Access to 2 Facilities
 - Access to 1 Facility
- Areas without Access**
 - 0 people/km² (no access, no population)
 - < 500 people/km² (no access, low population)
 - > 500 people/km² (no access, higher population)



Kilometers



Destination Level: City-wide

Destination-level parks and amenities are provided where appropriate within the city, and may not be well distributed due to their unique requirements. City-wide destinations are important amenities for most if not all residents of Kelowna, including City-Wide Parks, Main Event Spaces, and Motorized Boat Launches. These significant locations are often dependent on the unique geography in which they occur, and cannot necessarily be developed elsewhere. These attractions are therefore managed differently than other amenities, and may not be equitably distributed across the city. Access to these locations should be ensured through public transit and adequate parking supply.

Access to City-wide Parks

City-wide parks are parks with special recreational, cultural, or environmental significance. They range in size and offer unique experiences for residents, providing many different types of amenities to attract tourists and residents from across the city.

The most populated areas of the city, including the Downtown and Upper and Lower Mission generally have access to City-wide parks. The Rutland area has lower than average access to City-wide parks. The Glenmore-Clifton-Dilworth area lacks access to City-wide parks, as do the areas in the southeast of the city.

Current Level of Service – City Parks

QUANTITY • 26 city-wide parks

ACCESS • 77% of residents have access
• 23% of residents do not have access

Main Event Spaces

Like bookable event spaces, main event spaces can consist of a variety of different indoor and outdoor spaces. These event spaces are larger and can attract residents from across the city, as well as serving as an important tourism attraction for visitors. They foster a sense of community and provide spaces for residents to meet and socialize with their fellow residents. These spaces are currently well distributed within Kelowna.

There are 9 main event spaces in Kelowna. 77% of residents have access to main event spaces within 5 km of their residence, while 23% of residents do not. Most event spaces are located in the Downtown and in the Rutland community, therefore most residents in these communities have access to multiple event spaces. Some areas of South Pandosy-KLO, Glenmore-Clifton-Dilworth, and Upper and Lower Mission also have access to event spaces. However, the southeastern and northern areas of the city lack access to event spaces.

Current Level of Service – Main Event Spaces (5 km)

QUANTITY • 9 main event spaces

ACCESS • 77% of residents have access
• 23% of residents do not have access



Motorized Boat Launches

Motorized boat launches are one of the many ways that residents can interact with the water. These launches require amenities such as ramps and can often be shared between motorized and non-motorized boat users. Since they require natural water bodies, boat launches need to be located near the waterfront. Given this, it is important for multiple different methods of access to be provided so that residents from across the city can use these facilities.



There are 4 public boat launches in Kelowna. These boat launches are used by motorized boats, sail boats, and paddle crafts. 47% of residents have access to these boat launches within 5 km of their residence, while 53% of residents do not. As expected, access to boat launches is concentrated along the lake waterfront, particularly near the Downtown. The Rutland and Glenmore-Clifton-Dilworth areas do not have ready access to boat launches given their greater distance to Lake Okanagan.

Current Level of Service – *Motorized Boat Launches (5 km)*


- QUANTITY**
- 4 boat launches
- ACCESS**
- 47% of residents have access
 - 53% of residents do not have access

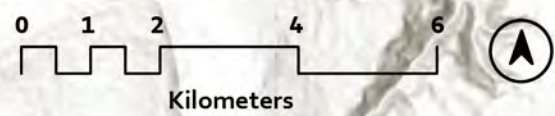
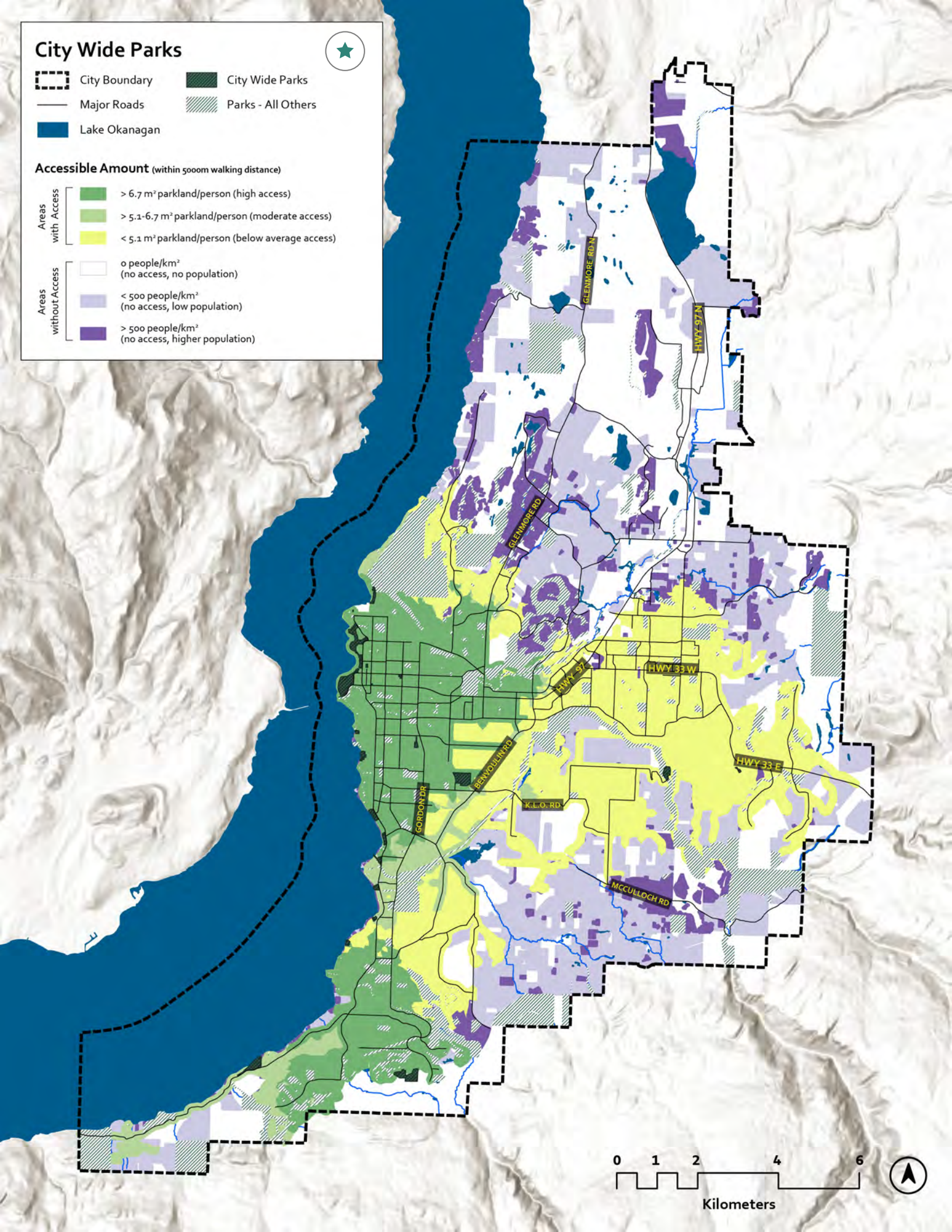


City Wide Parks

-  City Boundary
-  Major Roads
-  Lake Okanagan
-  City Wide Parks
-  Parks - All Others

Accessible Amount (within 500m walking distance)

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Areas with Access |  | > 6.7 m ² parkland/person (high access) |
| |  | > 5.1-6.7 m ² parkland/person (moderate access) |
| |  | < 5.1 m ² parkland/person (below average access) |
| Areas without Access |  | 0 people/km ² (no access, no population) |
| |  | < 500 people/km ² (no access, low population) |
| |  | > 500 people/km ² (no access, higher population) |

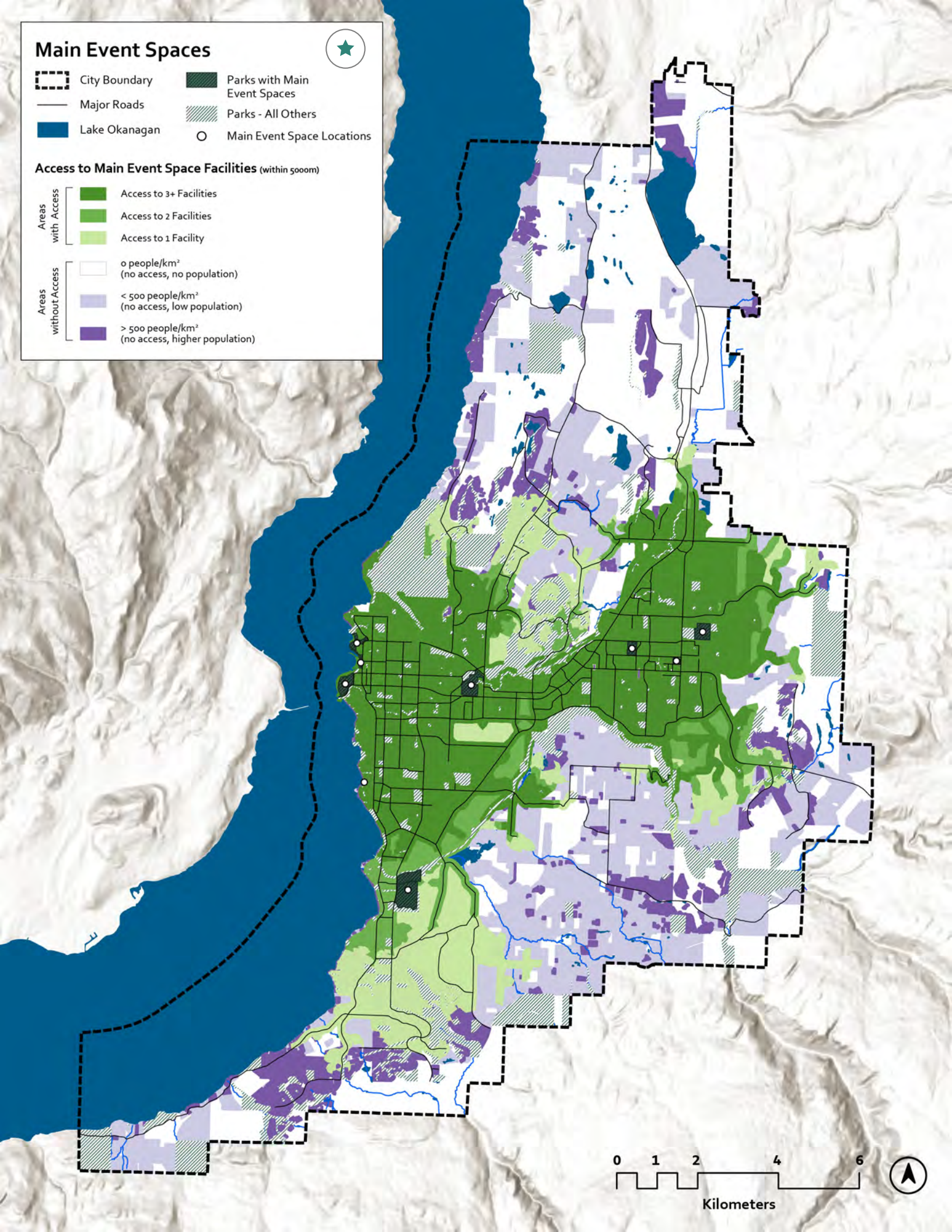


Main Event Spaces

- City Boundary
- Major Roads
- Lake Okanagan
- Parks with Main Event Spaces
- Parks - All Others
- Main Event Space Locations

Access to Main Event Space Facilities (within 5000m)

- Areas with Access**
 - Access to 3+ Facilities
 - Access to 2 Facilities
 - Access to 1 Facility
- Areas without Access**
 - 0 people/km² (no access, no population)
 - < 500 people/km² (no access, low population)
 - > 500 people/km² (no access, higher population)



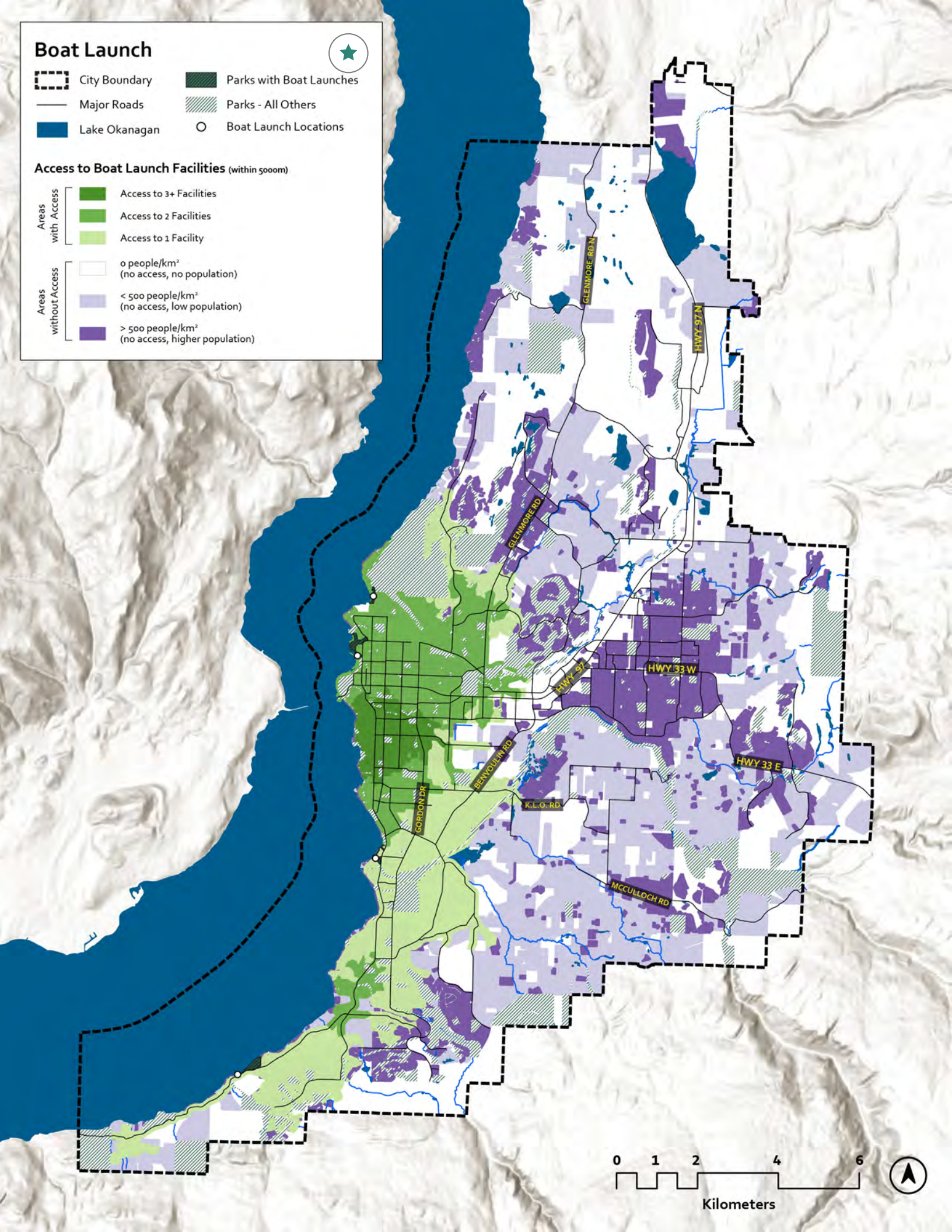
Boat Launch



- City Boundary
- Major Roads
- Lake Okanagan
- Parks with Boat Launches
- Parks - All Others
- Boat Launch Locations

Access to Boat Launch Facilities (within 5000m)

- Areas with Access
 - Access to 3+ Facilities
 - Access to 2 Facilities
 - Access to 1 Facility
- Areas without Access
 - 0 people/km² (no access, no population)
 - < 500 people/km² (no access, low population)
 - > 500 people/km² (no access, higher population)





Destination Level: Recreation

Recreational amenities also act as key destinations for residents and visitors to the city. These amenities are typically accessed via vehicles, serving as attractions for sporting events and other larger gatherings (amenity requires adequate parking facilities to support larger numbers of concurrent users). They need not be equitably distributed throughout the city, but equitable access should be ensured via transit and targeted programs. Recreation-level amenities include recreation parks, baseball and softball diamonds, sports fields (natural and artificial turf), paved courts, and volleyball courts.

Access to Recreation Parks

Recreation Parks are larger parks that accommodate facilities for a number of active recreational uses. They often include high activity sports fields, recreation centres, arenas, court facilities, swimming pools, and recreational trails. Due to the number and size of facilities at recreational parks, they often attract a large number of users from across the city. It is important that these parks are accessible to everyone so that residents do not face barriers to participating in the active recreation opportunities that these parks provide.

Most areas of the city have some access to recreation parks. The southern portion of Downtown, South Pandosy-KLO, and Upper and Lower Mission have a high level of access. Parts of Rutland and Glenmore-Clifton-Dilworth have lower than average access to recreation parks. However, Southeast Kelowna and Black Mountain have no access to recreation parks, as seen in the dark purple on Map X. Future recreation park developments include the Kelowna Community Centre and Sports Field as well as the Glenmore Recreation Park identified in the 10 Year Capital Plan.

Current Level of Service – Recreation Parks (5 km)

- QUANTITY**
- 5 recreation parks
-
- ACCESS**
- 81% of residents have access
 - 19% of residents do not have access

Baseball and Softball Diamonds

Baseball continues to be one of the most popular sports nationwide, making it a key amenity in many community parks. Baseball and softball amenities are primarily centered on ball diamonds but can also include dugouts and batting cages. These spaces are not very flexible and would primarily be used by baseball leagues and programs.

The city currently has 30 baseball facilities. 92% of residents have access to these facilities within 5 km of their residence, while 8% of residents do not. Most of the densely populated areas have access to more than three baseball facilities. Some of the more northern areas of the city lack access to these facilities.

Current Level of Service – Baseball and Softball Diamonds (5 km)

- QUANTITY**
- 30 baseball facilities
-
- ACCESS**
- 92% of residents have access
 - 8% of residents do not have access



Sports Fields

Sports fields generally include grass or artificial turf fields. These fields are used for a variety of sports and recreational activities such as soccer and ultimate frisbee. Having access to these fields is critical to ensuring that residents from across the city can participate in organized sports and recreational programming. Currently, most of these facilities are clustered in the most densely populated areas.

There are 65 sports fields in Kelowna. 94% of residents have access to sports fields within 5 km of their residence, while 6% do not. Almost all of the most populated areas of Kelowna have access to sports fields, with many areas having access to two or three. Some of the most northern areas of the city do not have access to any sports fields. Large sports fields can be difficult to facilitate in Kelowna given the limited available land area. This is compounded by the large amount of agricultural lands acquiring provincial consent to be repurposed.

Current Level of Service – *Sports Fields (5 km)*

-
- QUANTITY**
- 65 sports fields
-
- ACCESS**
- 94% of residents have access
 - 6% of residents do not have access
-



Paved Courts

Paved courts consist of some sort of paved surface. Additional amenities such as nets may also be provided. These courts are flexible and multi-functional. They can be used for a number of activities, such as ball hockey, and can be used by residents of all ages.

There are 4 paved courts in Kelowna. This includes ball hockey and multi-purpose courts. 68% of residents have access to these courts within 5 km of their residence, while 32% of residents do not. These courts are spread out quite evenly across the city. Most paved court access is concentrated in the eastern part of the Central City area and the western part of Rutland. The Upper and Lower Mission areas in the southwest of the city lack access to paved courts.

Current Level of Service – *Paved Courts (5 km)*

-
- QUANTITY**
- 4 paved courts
-
- ACCESS**
- 68% of residents have access
 - 32% of residents do not have access
-



Beach Volleyball

Volleyball courts generally consist of a sand playing surface and a net between two sides. Volleyball is not as prevalent as other sports but fits in well with waterfront or water-based park spaces. This makes it ideal for broader city-wide spaces.

Within Kelowna, there are six volleyball courts. 35% of residents have access to these amenities while 65% do not. Volleyball courts are concentrated along the waterfront, which means that waterfront communities such as the Downtown, South Pandosy-KLO, and Lower Mission have the greatest access to these amenities. However, most of the rest of the city does not have access to volleyball courts.

Current Level of Service – *Beach Volleyball (5 km)*

-
- QUANTITY**
- 6 volleyball courts
-
- ACCESS**
- 35% of residents have access
 - 65% of residents do not have access
-



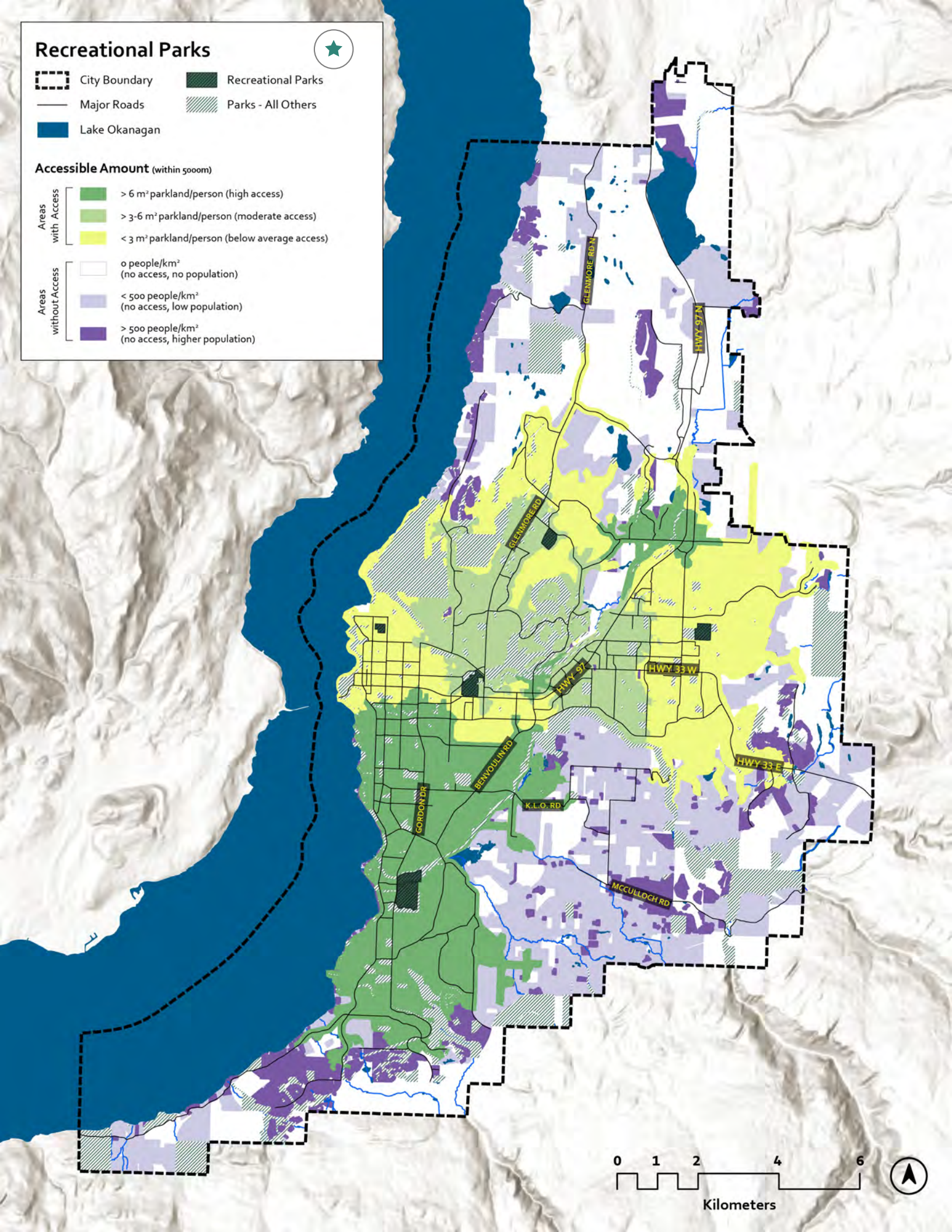
Recreational Parks



- City Boundary
- Major Roads
- Lake Okanagan
- Recreational Parks
- Parks - All Others

Accessible Amount (within 5000m)

- Areas with Access
 - > 6 m² parkland/person (high access)
 - > 3-6 m² parkland/person (moderate access)
 - < 3 m² parkland/person (below average access)
- Areas without Access
 - 0 people/km² (no access, no population)
 - < 500 people/km² (no access, low population)
 - > 500 people/km² (no access, higher population)

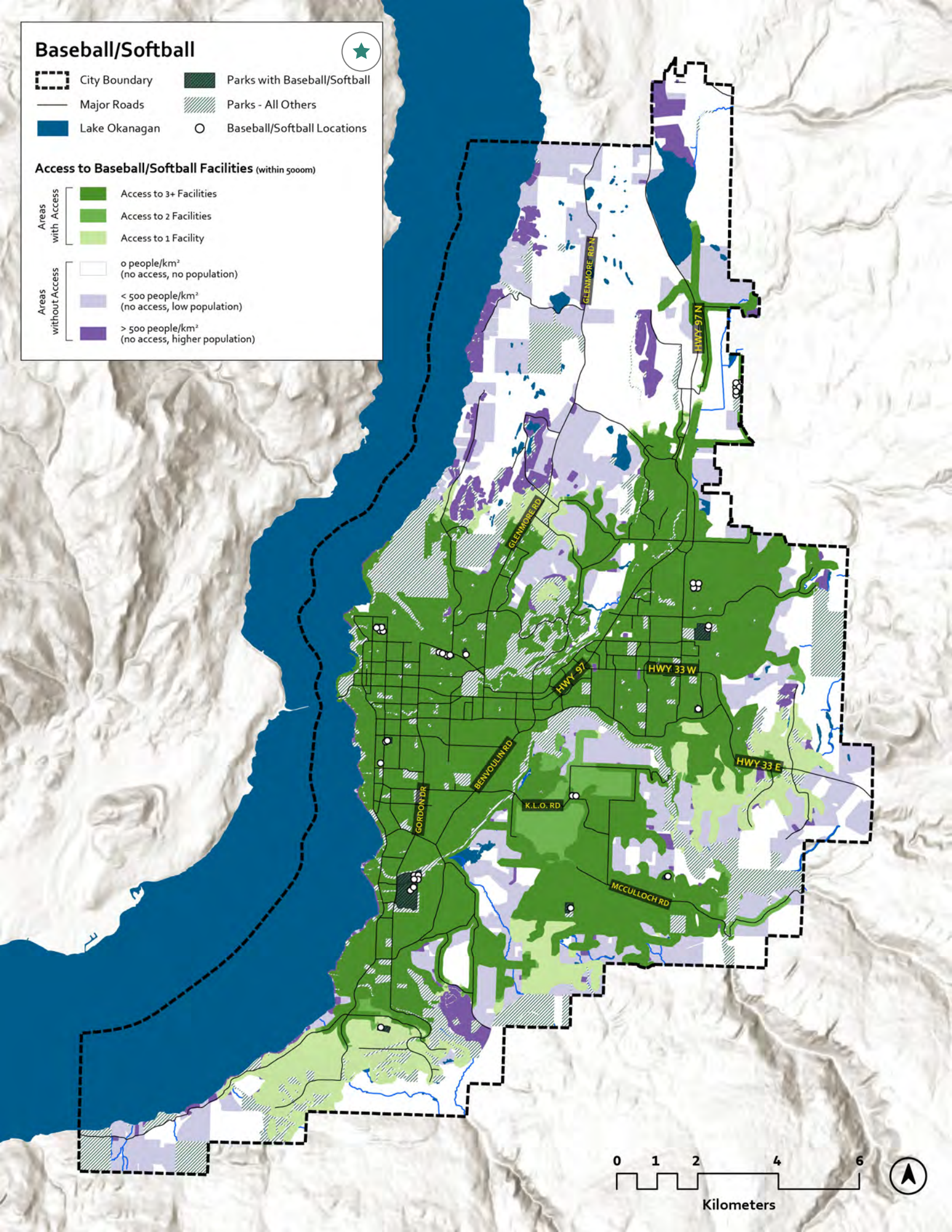


Baseball/Softball

- City Boundary
- Major Roads
- Lake Okanagan
- Parks with Baseball/Softball
- Parks - All Others
- Baseball/Softball Locations

Access to Baseball/Softball Facilities (within 5000m)

- Areas with Access
 - Access to 3+ Facilities
 - Access to 2 Facilities
 - Access to 1 Facility
- Areas without Access
 - 0 people/km² (no access, no population)
 - < 500 people/km² (no access, low population)
 - > 500 people/km² (no access, higher population)



Kilometers



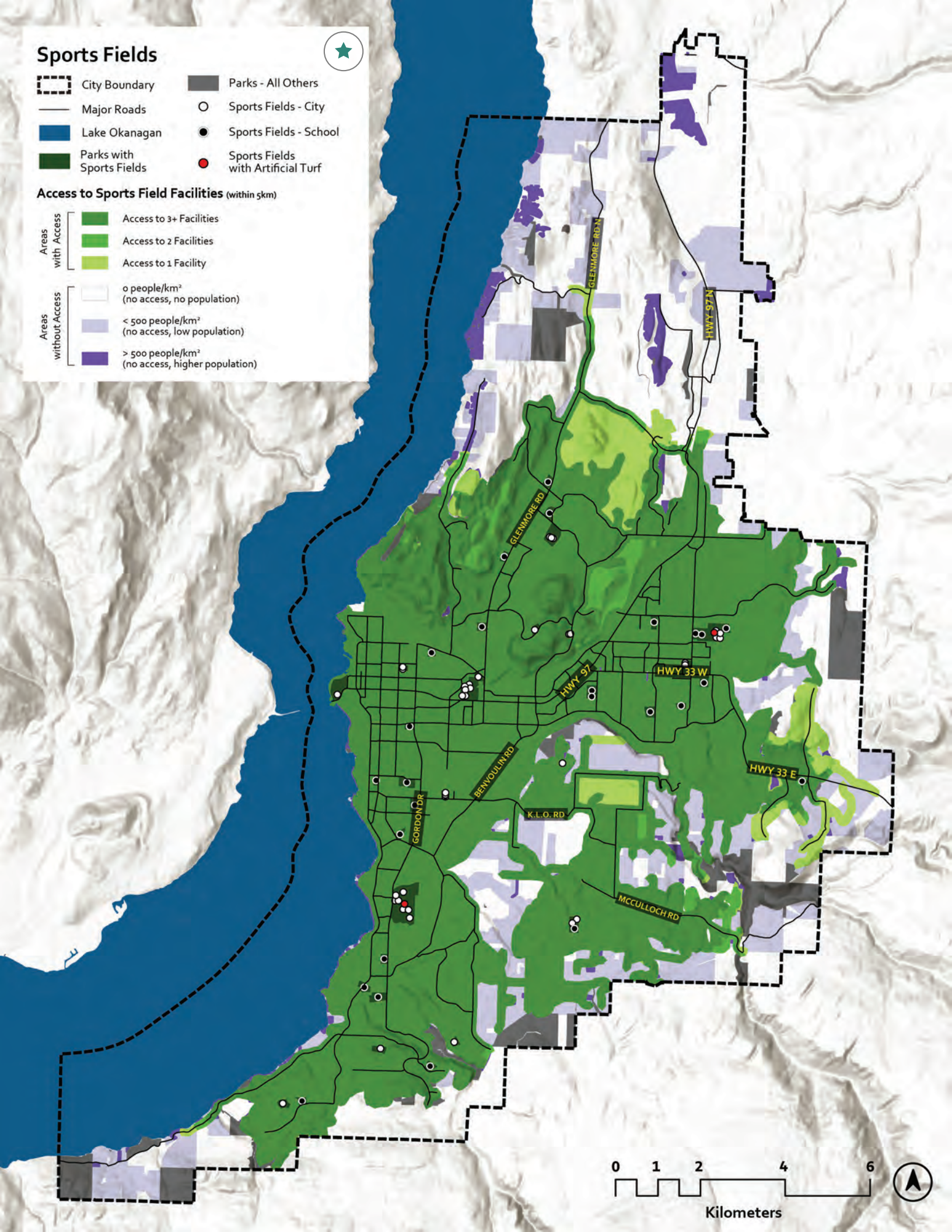
Sports Fields



- City Boundary
- Major Roads
- Lake Okanagan
- Parks with Sports Fields
- Parks - All Others
- Sports Fields - City
- Sports Fields - School
- Sports Fields with Artificial Turf

Access to Sports Field Facilities (within 5km)

- Areas with Access**
 - Access to 3+ Facilities
 - Access to 2 Facilities
 - Access to 1 Facility
- Areas without Access**
 - 0 people/km² (no access, no population)
 - < 500 people/km² (no access, low population)
 - > 500 people/km² (no access, higher population)



Kilometers

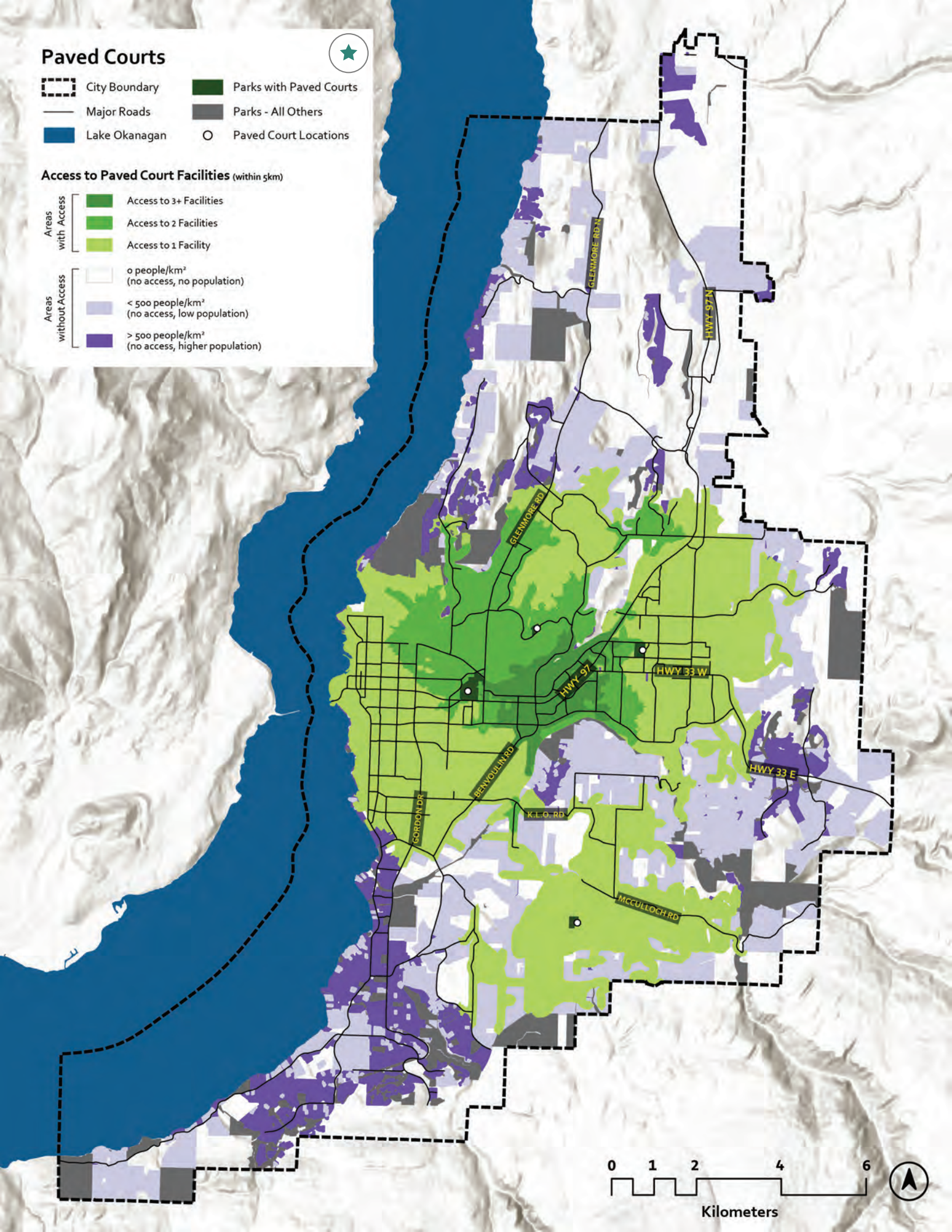
Paved Courts



- City Boundary
- Parks with Paved Courts
- Major Roads
- Parks - All Others
- Lake Okanagan
- Paved Court Locations

Access to Paved Court Facilities (within 5km)

- Areas with Access**
 - Access to 3+ Facilities
 - Access to 2 Facilities
 - Access to 1 Facility
- Areas without Access**
 - 0 people/km² (no access, no population)
 - < 500 people/km² (no access, low population)
 - > 500 people/km² (no access, higher population)



Kilometers

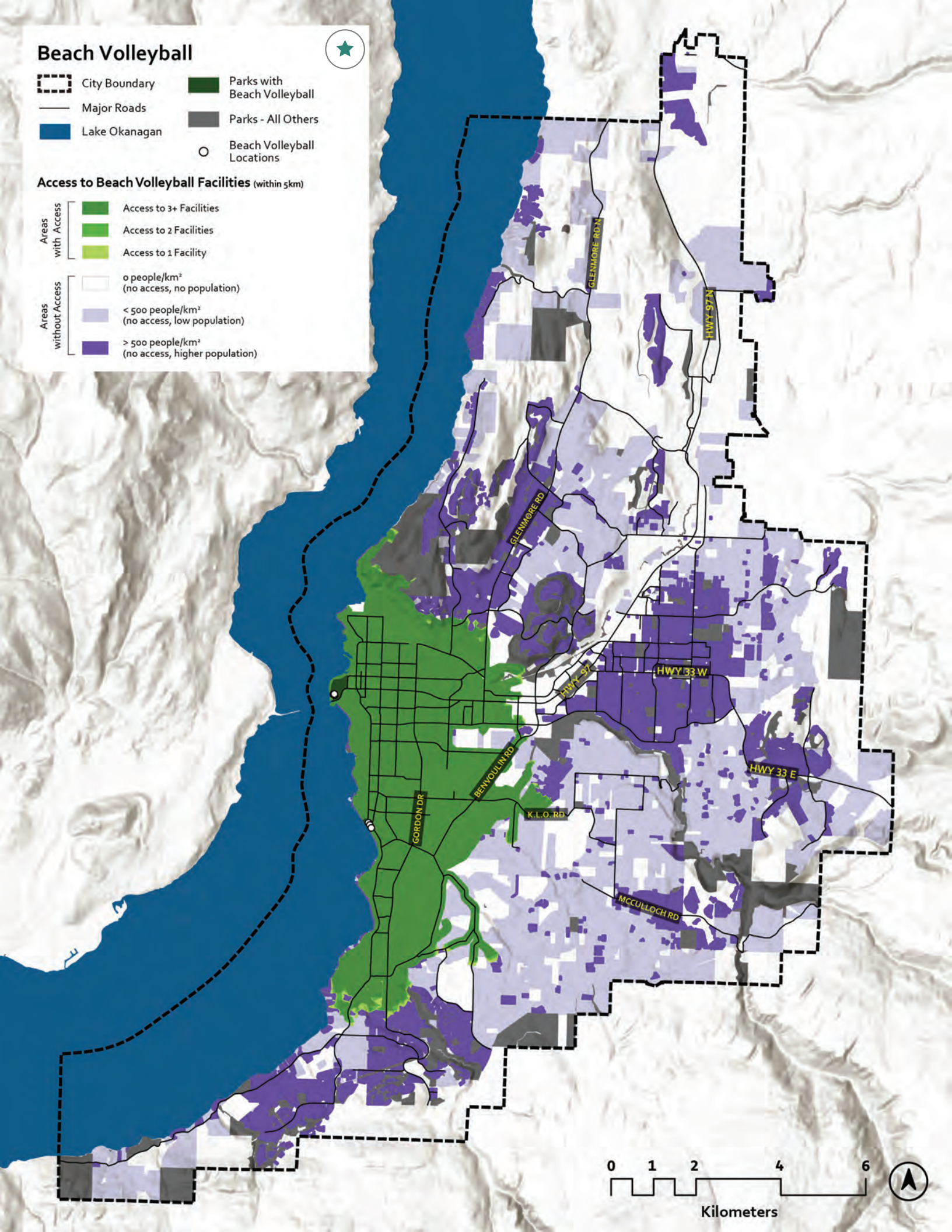
Beach Volleyball



- City Boundary
- Major Roads
- Lake Okanagan
- Parks with Beach Volleyball
- Parks - All Others
- Beach Volleyball Locations

Access to Beach Volleyball Facilities (within 5km)

- Areas with Access**
 - Access to 3+ Facilities
 - Access to 2 Facilities
 - Access to 1 Facility
- Areas without Access**
 - 0 people/km² (no access, no population)
 - < 500 people/km² (no access, low population)
 - > 500 people/km² (no access, higher population)



Kilometers



Park Visitation

Visitation and use of the parks system can be assessed in a variety of ways, from more intensive field observations and pathway use trackers, to recent innovations that draw on location-based cellular data services to identify the relative visitation throughout the entire system as a whole. As a high-level assessment of visitation, these location-based data gathering approaches provide a useful overview and scoping tool to gain an understanding of what portions of the parks system see the greatest relative use, and guide subsequent in-person assessments. While this useful approach allows for a broader understanding, it should not be taken as a definitive and comprehensive assessment. Such data is limited to those who own cell phones and voluntarily provide their estimated location through use of location-based applications. Other users will not be captured in this assessment.

Kelowna's parks system is well used, with most parks seeing visitation throughout the year. The greatest concentration of visitors is found in the Recreation Parks, Linear Parks, and along the waterfront. Figure 32 shows the relative density of visitation throughout the parks system, as well as the key areas of use. Larger parks, such as Knox Mountain Park, see visitation concentrated along pathways, the water's edge, and key access locations.






Recreation Parks see high densities of visitation throughout the parks system. Linear Parks such as Mill Creek, the Mission Creek Greenway Regional Park, and the Okanagan Rail Trail see use distributed along pathways. High visitation is observed throughout the beach areas providing access to Lake Okanagan. Visitation data is well distributed across the lake itself, demonstrating the diverse recreational uses found throughout the area. Within the parks system, the top ten most visited parks are:

1. Mission Recreation Park
2. Mill Creek Linear Park
3. Knox Mountain Park
4. Rutland Recreation Park
5. Parkinson Recreation Park
6. Waterfront Park
7. Stuart Park
8. City Park
9. Rutland Senior School*
10. Kelowna Secondary School*

*It may be important to consider that it is possible that locations 9 and 10 appear on the list here because it is likely a user group that is more commonly using locational data.

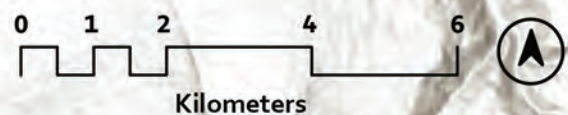
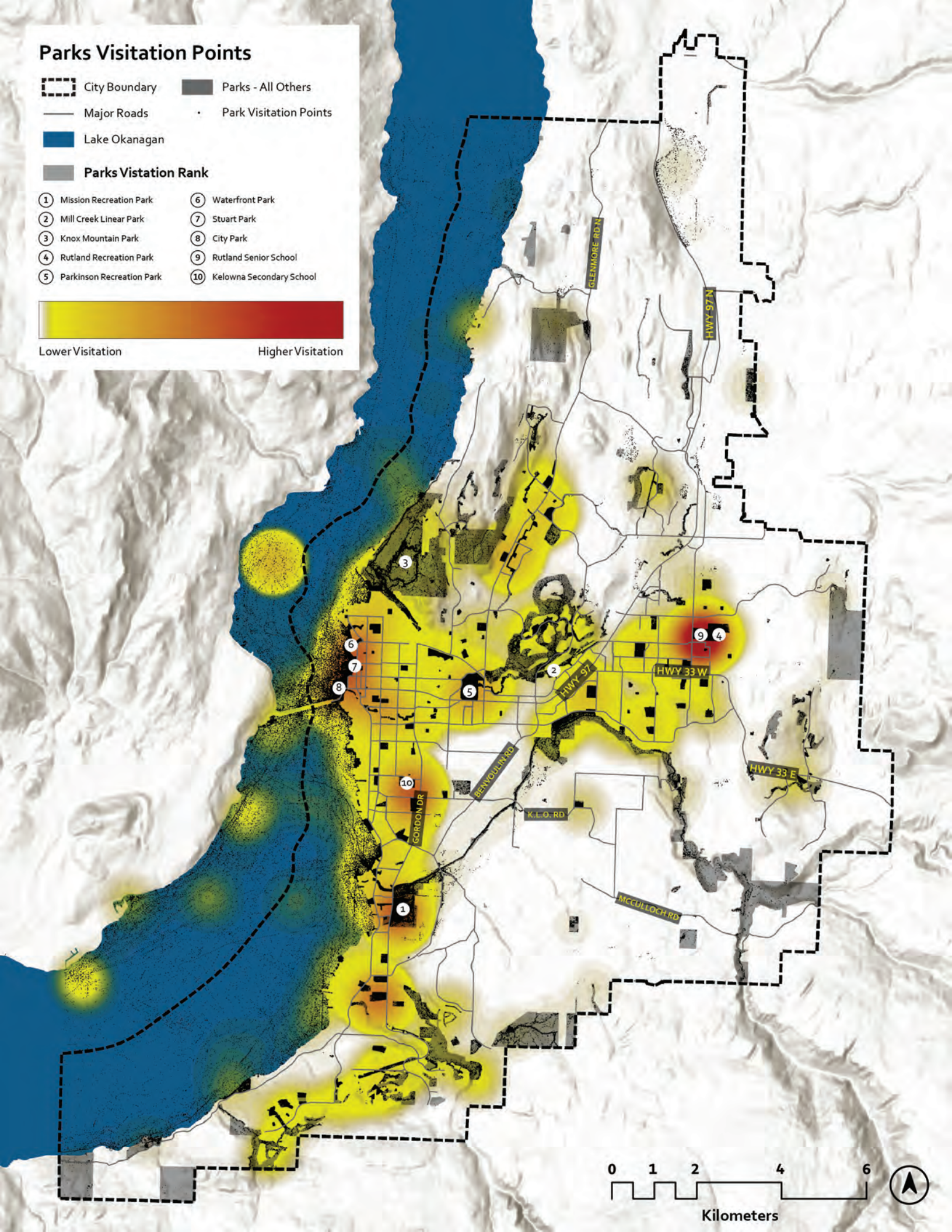


Parks Visitation Points

-  City Boundary
-  Parks - All Others
-  Major Roads
-  Park Visitation Points
-  Lake Okanagan

Parks Vistation Rank

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| ① Mission Recreation Park | ⑥ Waterfront Park |
| ② Mill Creek Linear Park | ⑦ Stuart Park |
| ③ Knox Mountain Park | ⑧ City Park |
| ④ Rutland Recreation Park | ⑨ Rutland Senior School |
| ⑤ Parkinson Recreation Park | ⑩ Kelowna Secondary School |





Framework for the Future

The principles of Imagine Kelowna are: Responsible, Connected, Smarter, and Collaborative (Figure 34). To align with this overall city direction, the Parks Master Plan must distill Imagine Kelowna’s vision, principles, and goals into specific direction for the municipal parks system. The following vision and principles are recommended for the parks system to ensure it is designed and managed responsibly, collaboratively, and in a smart and connected way. Engagement feedback and priorities learned from Phase 1 are also a critical ingredient in the vision and principles.



Figure 35: Imagine Kelowna Vision, Principles and Goals

Vision and Principles

The vision sets out the aspirational future for the parks system and what it should look like in 40-50 years. The suggested vision for Kelowna’s parks is:

Kelowna’s parks celebrate and protect the unique landscapes and people of the Okanagan Valley. From the lake to the mountains, they connect our communities through a network of vibrant destinations that bring people together and foster responsible stewardship. Our parks support a resilient and active city by providing equitable access to diverse recreational and cultural experiences.

To guide the park system moving forward, seven principles are proposed. These principles were created to satisfy several different 2040 OCP objectives as well as integrate feedback from Phase 1 engagement.

Table 3: Guiding Principles



Stewardship: Natural areas are protected and managed to support ecological health and to provide natural experiences for present and future generations.

Official Community Plan Objectives

- Objective 10.3. Ensure parks reflect their unique natural and cultural context.
-
- Objective 14.2. Protect and expand a healthy and viable urban forest.
- Objective 14.3. Preserve Okanagan Lake for its environmental, traditional, cultural, spiritual, and recreational values.
- Objective 14.4. Preserve and enhance biodiversity and landscape diversity, integrating and connecting ecological networks through the city.
- Objective 14.5. Protect and restore environmentally sensitive areas from development impacts.

Public & Stakeholder Engagement Feedback

- Environmental sustainability priorities most highly ranked in the survey
- 70% of participants felt 'protecting and/or restoring natural areas/ habitat' and 'preserving alignments of our natural creeks and surrounding native forests' were very important.
- Key benefit of parks was access to nature (habitat, nature connection, water access, fresh air)
- Top park activity was connecting with nature



Equity: Parks and amenities are provided and designed inclusively for the safety and enjoyment of everyone, including equity-seeking groups (Indigenous people, people experiencing homelessness, women, racialized communities, LGBTQ2+ communities, veterans and people with disabilities).

Official Community Plan Objectives

- Objective 9.1. Incorporate equity into planning decisions and resource allocation in our community.
- Objective 9.2. Strengthen the relationship with the syilx/Okanagan people through initiatives and processes to advance and support reconciliation in Kelowna.
- Objective 9.4. Ensure that all community members are safe and included.
- Objective 10.2. Ensure parks and public spaces are connected to each other and accessible for all citizens.
- Objective 10.4. Increase public access to water.
- Objective 10.1. Acquire new parks to enhance livability throughout the city.

Public & Stakeholder Engagement Feedback

- 'universal access' and 'clean & safe' key themes for what makes a great public space
- 'safety: I don't feel safe in parks' was the number one barrier to accessing parks
- "focusing on neighbourhoods that are underserved by parks" was ranked as the third highest acquisition & park development priority
- Inclusivity and accessibility major themes from stakeholder engagement
- Amenity gaps a key challenge identified through stakeholder discussions



Connectivity: Parks are walkable and connect our communities by providing recreational and leisure routes to support active living.

Official Community Plan Objectives

- Objective 10.2. Ensure parks and public spaces are connected to each other and accessible for all citizens.

Public & Stakeholder Engagement Feedback

- Second highest park activity was "walking / running / travel by wheelchair"
- 'easy to get to' was a top theme for what makes a great public space
- 52% of survey participants said they walk / wheelchair less than 15 minutes to get to parks
- Neighbourhood parks were most selected as visited "very often" out of the park types
- Parking challenges were noted as a barrier to accessing parks
- Access (parks too far away) was the 4th highest barrier
- "New waterfront parkland to create a continuous waterfront experience" and "new parks in growth areas" were ranked as the top two acquisition & park development priorities
- Interconnected trail network was a key topic in stakeholder discussions



Adaptability: Parks and amenities are managed adaptively to respond to changing needs, ensure resiliency, and respond to future opportunities.

Official Community Plan Objectives

- Objective 12.1. Design the community to be more resilient to a changing climate.
- Objective 12.8. Invest in ecosystem services and green infrastructure to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate.
- Objective 12.9. Support the community to prepare for and become resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Public & Stakeholder Engagement Feedback

- About 46% said that their use of parks increased because of COVID-19
- Climate change resiliency was a key theme from stakeholder engagement
- Keeping up with new recreation trends was an important priority identified through stakeholder engagement



Vibrancy: Parks contribute to community vibrancy by supporting a variety of year round activities, experiences, and needs in shared spaces.

Official Community Plan Objectives

- Objective 10.1. Acquire new parks to enhance livability throughout the City.

Public & Stakeholder Engagement Feedback

- 'room for many activities' a key theme for what makes a great public space
- Desire for both 'retreat / relaxation spaces' and 'active spaces'
- Lack of amenities was the #2 greatest barrier to accessing parks
- Connecting with nature, walking / running / travel by wheelchair, relaxing in park, and socializing / connecting with others were top park activities



Celebration: Parks bring people together, foster a sense of place and community, and express the diverse culture and histories of our region.

Official Community Plan Objectives

- Objective 9.2. Strengthen the relationship with the syilx/Okanagan people through initiatives and processes to advance and support reconciliation in Kelowna.
- Objective 10.3. Ensure parks reflect their unique natural and cultural context.
- Objective 11.2. Identify, conserve and protect historic places

Public & Stakeholder Engagement Feedback

- 'gathering spaces' were an important amenity
- Social connection (community, family, friends, etc) was an important benefit of parks and a top activity
- Park connections and celebration of unique landscapes and history (Indigenous and settler) was a key priority from stakeholder discussions



Collaboration: The city works with regional partners, community organizations, and the private sector to fund, acquire, develop, and program parks.

Official Community Plan Objectives

- Objective 10.5. Encourage partnerships to acquire and deliver parks and public spaces.

Public & Stakeholder Engagement Feedback

- Collaboration and increasing volunteer opportunities was a key theme from stakeholder feedback
- 'more stewardship opportunities for volunteers' was highest ranked priority under maintenance and operations



Goals

The Parks Master Plan will provide a series of tangible goals and outcomes to achieve over the next 10 to 50 years. These goals will serve to realize the vision for the park system while adhering to the seven guiding principles. The goals must be measurable with the clear ability to track and demonstrate success. The following 14 goals are proposed. These are presented in Table 5 along with the guiding principles that they fulfill.

Table 4: Goals

GOAL	DESCRIPTION	GUIDING PRINCIPLES
1	Strive to provide equitable local access to neighbourhood & community level amenities across the city.	
2	Design communities and parks to support walkability and improve the pedestrian experience through high quality pathway design and wayfinding in parks.	
3	Acquire additional parkland to protect natural areas and ecological diversity within Kelowna.	
4	Preserve and enhance the urban forest, waterbodies and riparian areas through restoration of native vegetation.	
5	Recognize Lake Okanagan as the central feature of the parks system and improve connectivity along and access to the waterfront for the use and enjoyment of all. Develop splash pads and water parks in locations without equitable access to the Lake.	
6	Acquire additional parkland to provide active parks and associated amenities, with a focus on supporting growth within urban centres and responding to existing gaps in park and amenity provision.	
7	Secure and maintain sustainable sources of funding for park acquisition, development, and ongoing operations.	

GOAL	DESCRIPTION	GUIDING PRINCIPLES
8	Foster truth and reconciliation in parks and recognize and celebrate Indigenous Peoples' cultures and important relationships to the land through partnerships, placemaking, events, and interpretation.	
9	Partner with local organizations to provide cultural experiences in parks to celebrate our diverse community.	
10	Design and retrofit parks to be universally accessible, safe, and inclusive through increased programming, pedestrian friendly design, well maintained public washrooms, and accessible parking and amenities.	
11	Provide a spectrum of play experiences in parks for all ages and abilities, including structured / unstructured play, accessible playgrounds, and play opportunities for different risk levels.	
12	Implement an equitable approach to park and amenity design that is welcoming for all citizens, including those who are most vulnerable, incorporating a wellness and community connections perspective in addition to meeting basic needs.	
13	Program parks to provide more cultural events, heritage interpretation, public art, and other educational experiences unique to Kelowna.	
14	Ensure that parks contribute to the overall physical and emotional health and wellbeing of the city and its people.	

Next Steps

This phase 1 report provides a high-level overview of the current inventory and relative access levels of Kelowna's parks system. Subsequent work will provide a more detailed view of the park system, focusing on the established 'Core Area' and 'Urban Centres' defined in the 2040 OCP. This will allow for practical and responsive acquisition, development, and programming recommendations that are informed by detailed public engagement with residents and visitors to each urban centre. This will allow for identified gaps in access to be evaluated and prioritized to ensure that the park system continues to adapt and grow in a way that responds to the needs of the local community, and the unique constraints of each location.

Appendix A: Current Park and Amenity Service Levels

Current Park and Amenity Service Levels

- Active Parkland
- Neighbourhood
- Community
- Destination
 - City-wide
 - Recreation

SERVICE LEVEL	AMENITY	COUNT	POPULATION (TOTAL PEOPLE WITHIN CATCHMENT AREA)	% OF RESIDENTS WITH ACCESS TO AT LEAST 1 OF THE PARK OR AMENITY
Open Space (within 500m)	All open space within city limits (Municipal Parkland, Natural Areas, Schools, Regional Parks, Provincial Parks)	279	113,730	78%
Active Parks (within 500m)	Municipal Parks (Neighbourhood, Community, City-Wide, & Recreation)	167	84,149	57%
Linear (within 500m)	Linear Parks	25	29,490	20%
Neighbourhood Level (within 500m)	Neighbourhood Parks	116	62,145	4.2%
	Forested Areas & Canopy Cover (all open space)	660	55,203	38%
	Sensitive Natural Areas (all open space)	136	48,028	33%
	Multifunctional open Greenspaces over 2000m ² (all open space)	68	29,428	20%
	Playgrounds	96	62,427	43%

SERVICE LEVEL	AMENITY	COUNT	POPULATION (TOTAL PEOPLE WITHIN CATCHMENT AREA)	% OF RESIDENTS WITH ACCESS TO AT LEAST 1 OF THE PARK OR AMENITY
Community Level (within 3 km)	Community Parks	20	118,424	81%
	Basketball	29	121,794	83%
	Bookable Event Spaces	17	93,986	64%
	Community Gardens	12	98,684	67%
	Dog Parks	13	90,239	62%
	Ice Skating	4	39,748	27%
	Pickleball/Tennis	15	105,702	72%
	Public Art	83	103,359	71%
	Skateparks	7	63,429	43%
	Washroom	21	92,936	63%
	Water Access	49	85,210	58%
City-Wide (within 5 km)	City-Wide Parks	26	112,316	77%
Recreation Level (within 5 km)	Recreation Parks	5	118,091	81%
	Baseball	38	131,574	90%
	Boat Launch	4	67,880	46%
	Main Event Spaces	9	112,547	77%
	Paved Courts	4	97,418	67%
	Sports Fields	65	137,395	94%
	Volleyball	6	51,886	35%

Appendix B: Kelowna Parks Plan Trends Report

Introduction

Understanding recreational and park access trends within Kelowna and across Canada is essential to effective parks planning. Parks planning must be able to respond to changing demand to create park spaces that people can access and will use both now and in the future. This background report provides an overview of Kelowna's demographics, parks trends during the COVID-19 pandemic, broader park trends, volunteering trends, and amenity provision trends. A comparison to parks and park infrastructure in other B.C. municipalities is also provided to offer context for parks planning in Kelowna.



Demographics

The demographic profile of Kelowna provides insights about the community’s present and future recreation needs. Demographics can help estimate who park users are and the types of park experiences that they may need. Overall, demographic trends can focus the lens of parks services and programming.

Kelowna is one of the fastest growing cities in Canada, growing by 13.5% between 2016 and 2021. Kelowna has a slightly younger population (42.4 years) than the rest of the province (42.8 years) (Statistics Canada, 2022). However, there is a higher percentage of older adults aged 65 years and older in Kelowna (21.4%) than the rest of the province. This has several implications for park design and usage. Older adults generally have more time for leisure, recreation, and volunteering, which may mean more demand for senior specific programming and activities. Park design must also consider age-appropriate applications to ensure universal accessibility (mobility), comfort, and supportive facilities such as washrooms and frequent seating.

In addition to an aging population, Kelowna has a slightly smaller than average household size of 2.3 (Statistics Canada, 2022). Around a third of households in Kelowna

have children while 49% are couples without kids. This means that there are a variety of household types that will need to be considered when planning parks, such as adults living alone, students, families with and without children, and retirees. Parks will need to be able to serve people of all ages and stages of life and adapt as specific local demographics change, such as student age children growing up.

Kelowna is less racially and ethnically diverse than BC overall or Canada, but it is gradually becoming more diverse (Statistics Canada, 2017). In 2016, 9.5% of Kelowna’s population identified as visible minorities compared to 22.3% in Canada and 30.3% in BC. Parks should be welcoming spaces for everyone. As the community becomes more diverse, it is essential to consider the different cultural needs and preferences of newcomers such as spaces to practice cultural activities and celebrations, specific sports, and different types of leisure. Diverse and inclusive parks should also ensure parks include Indigenous history, teachings and approach park building through a lens of reconciliation. Other important considerations are potential barriers to recreation or parks access, such as unfamiliarity with the climate, lack of specialized equipment, or language barriers.

Table 1: Kelowna Demographics Snapshot

<p>POPULATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 144,567 (2021) • 13.5% growth 	<p>VISIBLE MINORITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9.5% of population (2016) • B.C.: 30.3% • Canada: 22.3%
<p>MEDIAN INCOME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$34,352 (2016) • Higher than provincial and national median 	<p>INDIGENOUS POPULATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.5% of population (2016) • B.C.: 5.9% • Canada: 4.9%
<p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$68,627 (2016) • Lower than provincial and national median 	<p>COMMON LANGUAGES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • French • German • Spanish • Punjabi • Tagalog • Italian • Mandarin • Russian • Dutch
<p>MEDIAN AGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 42.4 (2021) • B.C.: 42.8 • Canada: 41.6 	
<p>AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.3 (2021) • B.C.: 2.4 	

Indigenous Peoples and Parks

The City of Kelowna, including all of its parks system, is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded lands of the syilx/Okanagan people. Indigenous peoples have historically been denied the ability to practice culture in public spaces and have been systematically removed from placemaking in favour of settler colonial narratives. Indigenous peoples today still face violence and discrimination in public spaces. Active partnerships and direct relationships with Indigenous communities and organizations will be essential to create inclusive spaces that respect Indigenous history, traditional uses, and contemporary cultural expression as well as foster truth and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in the community.

Kelowna has a young and growing urban Indigenous population. Approximately 5.5% of the total population of Kelowna identified as Indigenous in the 2016 Census. This is slightly lower than the Indigenous population in BC at 5.9% but higher than the Indigenous population in Canada at 4.9%.

Research shows that Indigenous people face greater barriers to accessing and participating in recreation. Indigenous youth are less likely to participate in organized sports due to increased social, cultural, and economic barriers for their families (Department of Canadian Heritage, n.d.). These barriers can be overcome by working with Indigenous youth and families to improve access and create programming that caters to their needs.

The City of Kelowna is committed to actively engaging with Indigenous peoples and building a relationship of trust, understanding, and mutual benefit. Indigenous traditional practices will inform parks planning in the city. Indigenous history and traditional cultural practices will be particularly significant in informing the Parks Planning goal of stewardship and equity, as the syilx/Okanagan people have been stewards of this land since time immemorial.



COVID-19 Related Parks Trends

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed both how people use and value parks. One of these key changes is how parks are increasingly being recognized for their mental health benefits (Volencic et al., 2021). In a cross-Canada survey involving over 1600 participants, 70% said that their appreciation for parks space increased during the pandemic. Approximately 82% of participants said that parks have become more important to their mental health during COVID-19 (Park People, 2020).

Parks provide opportunities for physical activity and exposure to nature, both of which provide stress relief (National Recreation and Park Association, 2015; Penbrooke, 2020). This has been especially important during the pandemic, as stress levels and anxiety have been increasing since the onset of COVID-19 (Volencic et al., 2021).

Over half (55%) of the 51 Canadian municipalities surveyed in 2020 said that park visitation increased during the pandemic (Park People, 2020). This surge in park use came as people and families tried to find safe ways to socialize, engage with their children, and stay active (Volencic et al., 2021; Collins et al., 2020). There has also been an increase in demand for public spaces that allow people to walk and cycle safely, such as Quiet Street programs or closure of streets to cars for public use (Collins et al., 2020; Park People, 2020). Quiet Streets are corridors that prioritize non-motorized active transportation uses such as cycling and walking by putting up traffic barriers to slow down traffic (Kingston Coalition for Active Transportation, 2020). They are typically located on local streets where there is a desire for an active transportation route (Kingston Coalition for Active Transportation, 2020). Other cities, such as Vancouver, Toronto, and Kingston, have already implemented these programs during the pandemic.

The pandemic disproportionately affected marginalized communities, many of whom already lacked access to park space. This has raised awareness about the need to ensure equitable access to public spaces.

Homelessness

Homelessness presents both a challenge and an opportunity for parks planning. Parks are public spaces that should be open and accessible to everyone, regardless of income, background, or housing status. Inclusive park design can ensure that those experiencing homelessness have access to washroom facilities, drinking water, and shelter from the elements. Parks can also provide inclusive programming in coordination with social support agencies to help foster a sense of community, build physical literacy through recreation, and educate housed citizens on how to be compassionate towards those experiencing homelessness.

In Kelowna, there are at least 297 people experiencing homelessness, and this number is rising (Central Okanagan Foundation, 2020). Kelowna has a 5-year plan for ending homelessness called Journey Home. There is an opportunity to consider some of the Plan's direction in parks planning, such as collaborating on efforts to increase youth access to community and recreation, helping to reduce the criminalization of those experiencing homelessness in park spaces, and fostering truth and reconciliation in public space.

Tourism Trends

Tourism is an extremely valuable industry and is an essential part of Kelowna's economy, providing employment for approximately 12,970 people. The industry generated around \$2.1 billion in 2018/19 (Tourism Kelowna, 2021). The Okanagan area is one of the most popular tourism regions in the province. It attracts a number of visitors, with approximately 69% from other parts of B.C., 12.5% from Alberta, and about 10.4% from the United States. Some of the top reasons for visiting Kelowna are sightseeing, winery touring, and family vacations as well as water-based recreation beaches and outdoor activities (Tourism Kelowna, 2021). Parks play a key role in the tourism industry, providing visitors the opportunity to participate in desirable activities and shaping how tourists experience the city.

Cultural Heritage in Parks

Within parks, cultural heritage generally includes heritage features or heritage landscapes. The historical aspects of parks are increasingly being preserved and developed by municipalities. Incorporating cultural heritage into parks embeds the importance of the space into the parks while increasing user interest. Cultural heritage can be showcased through naming, interpretive information plaques, art, and culturally appropriate features that honour the heritage and spirit of the cultural practice. While continuing to include museums and educational opportunities, many cultural heritage spaces aim to foster discussion amongst users. Municipalities are also moving towards including festival venues, art displays, amphitheaters, and gardens to honour cultural heritage in parks (Strathcona County, 2019). Indigenous heritage is also increasingly being incorporated into parks and open spaces, through things such as monuments and museums, as well as through cultural experiences and incorporating Indigenous knowledge and traditional uses.

Within Kelowna, there are a number of heritage societies that are a part of preserving and celebrating Kelowna's unique history, including the Central Okanagan Heritage Society and the Okanagan Historical Society. These organizations help manage some of the heritage parks in the city, including Guisachan Heritage Park, Benvoulin Heritage Park, and Brent's Grist Mill Park. Kelowna also has a number of initiatives, including a cultural district, theatres, galleries, gardens, and museum celebrating the city's military history and wine-making heritage.

Placemaking and Identification

The Government of B.C. has a formal process for place naming, outlined in the Geographical Naming Policy and Procedures. Under this process, the government initiates an engagement period to get feedback from relevant local governments and Indigenous peoples.

Commemorative naming requires that there be broad demonstrated support of a significant contribution to the area by said person. The Government of B.C. has pushed towards incorporating more place names that reflect the cultural history and heritage values of a place and the province. To this end, there has been an increased effort to appropriately honour Indigenous traditional place names. This is being done through collaboration with Indigenous nations in order to correct previously anglicized names and recognize Indigenous names and naming conventions.

More information can be found at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/celebrating-british-columbia/historic-places/geographical-names>.

Urban River Restoration

Kelowna's 2040 OCP expresses a desire to protect and restore its waterbodies, especially Okanagan Lake. The OCP policy 10.4.7 states that parks and public spaces must be designed proactively to protect the waterfront from climatic events. Policy 10.4.8 states that a habitat-balance approach must be used when developing Okanagan Lake foreshore (avoid, mitigate, and compensate habitat impacts).

The OCP also includes policy to preserve other riparian areas and watercourses in their natural state, linking with upland areas to develop a connected network of natural areas throughout Kelowna. This is particularly important around urban areas, including the Downtown, where waterfront amenities and recreational use might harm the health of the lake. Parks can play a role in this, providing for natural stormwater filtration and increasing riparian vegetation, all while allowing for recreational or passive use.

Urban Green Space Compensation

Urban areas often struggle to provide adequate green spaces for residents due to increased densities and a lack of space. Instruments such as greening facades, backyards, green roofs, green streets, and other smaller interventions help provide urban green spaces in densely populated urban areas.

High Level Recreational Trends

High-level park trends provide insights into what park amenities people want and will help Kelowna create park spaces that people will use and enjoy. Across Canada, one of the most significant trends is that programmed recreation demand has decreased while self-directed leisure has increased in popularity (Department of Canadian Heritage, n.d.). This means that there is demand for more flexible, multi-purpose recreational spaces such as gymnasiums with adjustable barriers and fields that accommodate many different sports (Alberta Culture and Tourism, 2013; Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute, 2011 (both within Town of Okotoks, 2017)). These trends point to a need for programming that is shorter and more flexible to accommodate residents' busy schedules. Drop-in programs or low-cost spontaneous activities are another potential option (Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, 2017; City of Kelowna, 2018). There is also an opportunity to create flexible parks spaces with trails, as trail-based recreation has also increased in demand. Incorporating a diverse range of activities and amenities from different cultures, such as cricket fields or Kabaddi courts, helps create inviting spaces for residents of all backgrounds.

Outdoor activities that engage with the natural environment foster both an active lifestyle and an appreciation of nature. Across B.C., there has been an increased desire to engage with nature, particularly for children and families (Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, 2018). This demand could be supported through nature-based programming such as outdoor classrooms, natural playgrounds, and youth-oriented community gardens.

Barriers to accessing and participating in recreation are another important consideration for parks planning. Some of the biggest recreation barriers to individuals are the cost of equipment and enrolment fees, a lack of interest in sports, and the location of programs, clubs, and facilities (Town of Okotoks, 2017; B.C. Recreation and Parks Association, n.d.). Grants to cover the cost of sports equipment, waiving enrolment fees for lower income communities, and offering free sessions and trials to get people interested in sports are some potential solutions to explore.

Parks can sometimes be difficult for people to access without a car, particularly if there is little transit access to the park (Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, 2017). To address this issue, Vancouver is changing park access modelling to consider actual walking or travel catchments rather than distance "as the crow flies". Another important consideration is ensuring that all neighbourhoods are well serviced with sidewalks and improving consistent infrastructure where needed. Sidewalks act as linear park space particularly when design is carefully considered and also act as safe pedestrian connections to other park spaces and urban amenities.

Where possible, it is important to reach out to communities that require assistance to access parks in order to ensure they are receiving appropriate assistance (B.C. Recreation and Parks Association, n.d.) Another barrier to recreation is culture, as many immigrant communities feel nervous about participating in programs or are unsure about what they want to participate in. Programs that cater to these communities or free sports trial programs might help break down this barrier. These measures will help create parks that are useable by all residents.

Most Popular Park Activities (Canada-wide and in B.C.)

- Walking
- Sitting
- Cycling
- Running and jogging
- Basketball
- Baseball
- Picnicking
- Soccer

Activities increasing in demand include:

- Trail-based recreation
- Hiking
- Pickleball courts
- Children's waterplay facilities
- Indoor tracks
- BMX facilities
- Ziplining
- Mountain biking
- Splash pads for kids

(Sources: Department of Canadian Heritage, n.d.; Town of Okotoks, 2017; Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, 2017)

Trail Based Recreation

Trail-based uses are increasing in demand. Even before the pandemic and especially over the course of the pandemic, residents have increasingly begun using trails for both recreation and active transportation. Around 75% of Canadians use trails for exercising and enjoying the outdoors, most of whom are between the ages of 9-40 (Trans Canada Trail, 2020). This coincides with an increase in active transportation use. Increased trail use could support the creation of more multi-use pathways for both recreational and transportation uses, within and connecting parks (Strathcona County, 2019).

Common Trail Uses:

- Hiking
- Mountain biking
- Running
- Equestrian
- In-line skating

(Sources: District of Squamish, 2010)

A growing challenge with trail use is user conflicts. There is increasing demand for motorized uses such as e-bikes or scooters, which can travel at higher speeds than walkers and bikers and can be a safety hazard. As a solution, many municipalities are widening trails or have separate trails for different users where possible (District of Squamish, 2010; National Capital Commission, 2020; Town of Aurora, 2011). Another method is using a trail designation system to identify trails based on their type of use and difficulty rating. For example, Squamish has five different trail types, including primary, collector, neighbourhood, and specified use trails. Kelowna currently has six different trails types including Major Urban Promenade, Major Multi-use, Standard Multi-use, and Narrow Multi-use (City of Kelowna, n.d.(a)). There is an opportunity to add more nuance to the trail classifications to better determine the uses, size, and maintenance needed for each trail.



Volunteerism and Stewardship Trends

Volunteering and stewardship are important parts of parks operations and maintenance. These volunteers and stewards provide additional support to parks staff in a variety of areas. In 2018, roughly 12.7 million Canadians volunteered in some capacity, with people over the age of 50 generally dedicating more time to volunteering than those under 40 (Statistics Canada, 2020). In 2018, volunteers for sports and recreation organizations across Canada dedicated an average of over 100 hours per person per year, demonstrating how much these organizations rely on volunteer efforts. However, few youths volunteered for these organizations. Volunteer efforts within parks should try to appeal to younger generations and should encourage these volunteers to continue volunteering in the future. Creating volunteer opportunities for immigrant communities is also important, as these groups generally have lower levels of volunteerism (Statistics Canada, 2015).

Stewardship programs can help get people of all ages involved in protecting parks and natural areas and create a sense of ownership over these spaces. Several municipalities in B.C. have stewardship programs such as the Stanley Park Ecology Society, the Young Naturalists Club, the Environmental Youth Alliance, and Nature Vancouver, as well as a number of individual park associations (Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, 2014; City of Vancouver, n.d.). These programs focus on different aspects of park stewardship and many are targeted towards youth. There is an opportunity to use these programs to foster ownership of the environment at a young age.

Partnerships with other organizations and recreational groups is another part of effective parks implementation. This includes partnerships with school boards, libraries, health organizations, educational groups, sports and recreation groups, and post-secondary institutions among others (City of Richmond, 2018; Abbotsford Parks, Recreation & Culture, 2014). Partnerships with hard-to-reach groups like immigrant-serving organizations, cultural groups, seniors organizations, churches, and organizations for people with disabilities are also essential (City of Richmond, 2018). This can help create diverse park spaces that are enjoyable for all residents.

Careful planning of volunteer opportunities and appropriate support measures can create a strong and effective volunteer network to aid in the operation and maintenance of parks. Some potential volunteer opportunities from other municipalities include: volunteer ambassador programs, volunteering with sports organizations, parks ambassador programs, mentorship programs, volunteer tourism, youth volunteer programs, school programs and trail mapping (City of Richmond, 2018). Volunteers and environmental stewards can also help with removing invasive plants, monitoring wildlife, plantings, public education, and observing and recording user activities (Metro Vancouver, n.d.; B.C. Parks, 2012).

Moving forward, there is an opportunity to build public awareness, enthusiasm, and commitment for volunteering in parks. Further clarity on what volunteer opportunities are available can help build public awareness and increase participation. Volunteer programs can also be better supported through appropriate staff training and support regarding volunteer coordination and community engagement. Providing certain benefits to volunteers, particularly those engaged in dangerous activities, is another option to support volunteers (B.C. Parks, 2012). A combination of these measures would help attract new volunteers and effectively utilize them.

Ecosystem Services

Parks play an important role in providing ecosystem services such as providing temperature regulation, clean air and water, wildlife habitat, and stormwater attenuation. They help to increase the natural habitats within urban areas and provide the primary soft landscapes within cities (Park People, 2017). However, it can be difficult to measure the value that these ecosystem services provide, since they are public goods and are difficult to clearly define. One potential way to define them would be to measure how important they are to residents and how much people would be willing to pay to preserve them (Ecosystem Valuation, n.d.). Another would be to measure the value of their use or potential use. It is essential that Kelowna includes the value of ecosystem services in decision-making for parks, even if it is more difficult to measure.

Parks can provide essential stormwater management, as they reduce runoff by around 8 to 10 times compared to

impermeable surfaces like roads and parking lots. This can depend on how well used the park is, as the soil in well used parks can become compacted, reducing its ability to absorb water (Park People, 2017). Other cities are enhancing the stormwater benefits of their parks and open spaces by adding elements such as rain gardens, bioswales, stormwater management ponds, and permeable paving (Park People, 2017). Adding these elements provides many benefits, including expanding urban habitats, improving the performance of environmental functions, creating new recreational spaces, and saving money. There is an opportunity to include this type of green infrastructure into new park designs or redesigns of older parks and to include community members in the design and maintenance of this infrastructure (Parks People, 2017). Financial tools, such as stormwater charges or credit programs can help fund green infrastructure projects. For example, the Town of Newmarket has a stormwater charge that is based on the level of runoff on a property. This additional funding would help address some of the challenges with green infrastructure, including increased maintenance and costs, the need for monitoring and evaluation programs, and balancing the needs of park users.

Climate change will continue to have a major impact on parks and Kelowna will need to adapt to these changes. By affecting seasonal temperatures, climate change could have an impact on the types of activities that are available to Canadians (Department of Canadian Heritage, n.d.). In turn, this could impact the types of facilities that are needed and the costs of operating and maintaining these facilities. Increased hazards created by climate change, such as flooding or wildfire smoke, could also impact how parks function and could increase maintenance and repair costs.

Ecosystem Services: The benefits that people obtain from ecosystems. These can include provisioning services like food and water, regulating services such as flood control, cultural services like spiritual, recreation, and cultural benefits, and supporting services like nutrient cycling (Green Facts, n.d.).

Climate Change

Climate change will continue to have a major impact on parks and Kelowna will need to adapt to these changes. A recent climate modelling report for the Okanagan identified the following local changes anticipated from a changing climate:

- Warmer temperatures year-round;
- Summers that are considerably hotter and drier;
- Increased duration of growing season;
- Warmer winter temperatures;
- Increased precipitation across all seasons except summer; and
- Shifting seasons (Climate Projections for the Okanagan Region, 2020)

By affecting seasonal temperatures, climate change could have an impact on the types of activities that are available to Canadians (Department of Canadian Heritage, n.d.). In turn, this could impact the types of facilities that are needed and the costs of operating and maintaining these facilities. Increased hazards created by climate change, such as flooding or wildfire smoke, could also impact how parks function and could increase maintenance and repair costs. Parks provide natural water storage and filtration that balances the water cycle and rain water management to compensate against unexpected flooding.

Parks are also essential to regulating urban climate. Through phenomena such as the urban heat island effect and with climate change continuing to affect weather patterns, cities are expected to get hotter. Parks play an essential role in regulating urban climate by providing shade and cooling. Parks also offer the opportunity for people to spend time outside of their homes.

Table 5. Summary of Central Okanagan Valley Bottom Climate Changes from Climate Projections for the Okanagan Region (2020)²

Climate Variable	Past Days	Projected Change from 1961-1990 Baseline	
		2050s Change Average	Range (10 th to 90 th percentile)
Summer Days above 30°C	24	32	19 to 48
Hottest Summer Day (°C change)	35.3	4.4	2 to 6
Cooling degree days (°C change)	230	354	173 to 565
Coldest Winter Night (°C)	-18.8	6.1	4 to 10
Heating degree days (% change)	3430	-23%	-29% to -16%
Spring precipitation (mm)	74	13%	2% to 21%
Change in very wet days (mm)	17	39%	7% to 80%

This climate models indicates what will happen with local weather and climate impacts with unabated temperature increases caused by GHG emissions. Perhaps the greatest and most severe of the changes will be the increased variability and unpredictability of day-to-day temperatures and weather phenomena.

Amenity and Provision Trends

Park amenity trends focuses on the types of facilities that municipalities are incorporating into their parks and recreation systems, rather than just user demand. Across Canada, municipalities are generally moving towards more multi-use facilities with flexible spaces (Strathcona County, 2019). These facilities are beneficial community hubs as they have lower operational costs, serve larger catchment areas, and are more convenient. However, they may be less equitable, since they are not always as accessible as local facilities.

Multi-generational programming is also increasing in popularity, as are age-friendly design features, more facilities for seniors, and programming for adults of all ages. Facilities can be made more multi-generational by including more rest spaces, child-friendly spaces, and mobile technologies in their facilities. There is also an opportunity to develop large indoor fields and multi-sport indoor training facilities in both new and expanded facilities (City of Kelowna, 2018). Aging infrastructure continues to be an issue for municipalities across Canada

but can serve as an opportunity to update infrastructure to be more responsive to the current and future demographics of the community.

Conclusion

There are many population and parks trends that impact the future of parks planning in Kelowna. The large senior and older adult populations in Kelowna stress the need for age-appropriate facilities and programming for all ages. The growing diversity of the community emphasizes the need for park spaces that better includes people of different backgrounds and creates spaces for everyone to come together. As one of the fastest growing cities in Canada, it will be essential to ensure that there are adequate park facilities for all residents and that the park space provided can keep up with growth. This is especially true given the limited land and increasing densities in Kelowna. The growth of trail-based recreation will also be critical to consider in the design of an overall connected green network in Kelowna. Many of these needs can be addressed by incorporating more multi-use, flexible spaces and programming to accommodate residents' busy schedules.

While having a variety of amenities is important, ensuring that park space is accessible to everyone is equally important. The pandemic has demonstrated the importance of parks to mental health and the impact of the existing inequitable distribution of parks.

Finally, it is important to maintain a balance between recreational use and protecting the ecological services that parks provide. Okanagan Lake in particular is both a key ecological asset as well as a tremendous asset to the city as a provincial, national, and international tourist draw; therefore, it is essential to balance both benefits that the lake provides. Climate change will continue to impact how parks function and municipalities will need to adapt to these changes and increased hazards. The location of Kelowna in the Okanagan Valley places particular importance on the parks and open space system providing important natural habitats and ecosystem services which help to mitigate the risk of natural hazards to the city.

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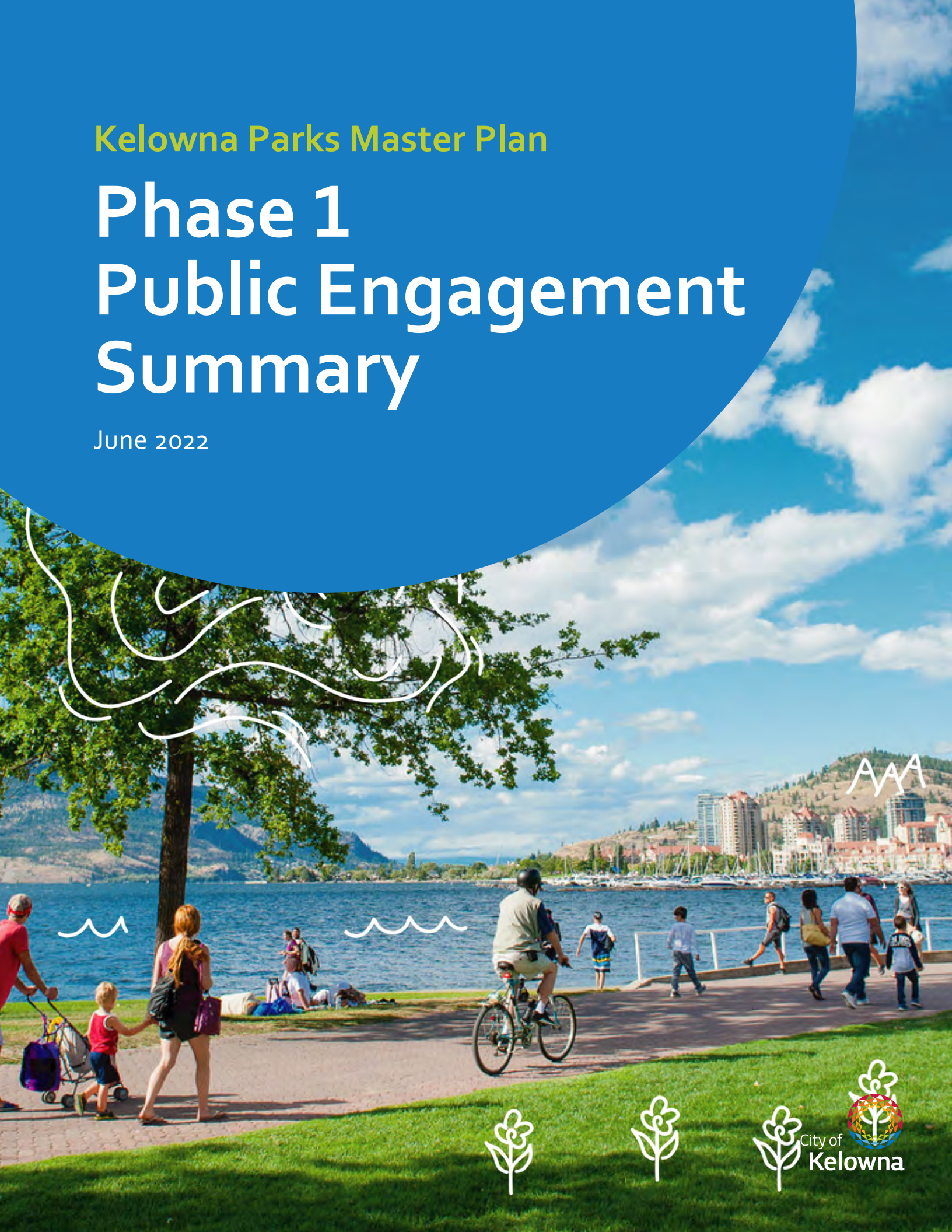
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Appendix C: What We Heard

Kelowna Parks Master Plan

Phase 1 Public Engagement Summary

June 2022



AAA



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Engagement Approach

Purpose

The City of Kelowna is creating a City Parks Master Plan to guide the expansion, development, and operations of our parks system as the City grows. This master planning process will guide what the future of parks in Kelowna look like by defining a collaborative vision and goals. Residents and community stakeholders will have an opportunity to influence the decisions about the key priorities for our parks system over the next 20-40 years.

The first phase of engagement sought ideas and insights to guide future direction for the parks system. The feedback will be used to develop the city-wide vision and park priorities. The future phases of the project will focus on neighbourhood specific priorities and eventually the creation of a draft City Parks Master Plan.

The first phase of engagement was hosted from November 2 – December 12, 2021.



Who We Engaged

Engaging with stakeholders and members of the community is essential to creating a collaborative vision and goals for Kelowna's parks system. In Phase 1, members of the general public and community organizations were invited to participate in this initial visioning stage. Community organizations representing a variety of park users and interests, including neighbourhood associations, stewardship groups, environmental and recreation organizations, tourism organizations, and business associations were invited to participate in focused workshop activities.

The City also engaged with a number of Indigenous groups including the Okanagan Nation Alliance, Westbank First Nation, and Okanagan Indian Band. Our engagement with local Indigenous groups will not be limited to this single project phase nor milestone deliverables but is intended over the duration of all three project phases. We began with a 'first-touch' meeting with the Okanagan Nation Alliance to explore their willingness to participate, level of involvement and topic appropriateness. A series of follow-up sessions will explore:

- what First Nation core values should be added into the Master Plan,
- increasing inclusivity for Indigenous groups in our parks, programs, and public art;
- ensuring significant cultural and natural areas are considered; and
- decolonization initiatives throughout our parks system.

How We Engaged

A variety of methods were used to reach a wide and diverse audience. These methods were primarily online due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but alternative methods to give feedback were provided, including a paper survey option. The following engagement methods were used during Phase 1.

- **Public Survey:** The online survey at getinvolved.kelowna.ca/parks-master-plan ran throughout Phase 1 (from November 2 – December 12, 2021) and was the main form of engagement with the general public. Paper copies of the survey were also available.
- **Sounding Boards:** A large display was located in City Park, Stuart Park, Ben Lee Park and Mission Recreation Park throughout the engagement period. This board provided park users with project information and an opportunity to share feedback on-site with sticky notes.
- **Quick Answer Online Questions:** QR codes were distributed on posters located in parks around Kelowna, which led to a series of 3 open questions about Kelowna parks. This was available for the same duration as the online survey for participants who only had a few moments to provide feedback.
- **Stakeholder Workshops:** Two virtual stakeholder workshops were held with representatives from invited stakeholder organizations, on November 30 and December 2, 2021. Some groups invited to participate were identified by the project team, while others registered their interest through the project website, to ensure all relevant groups were provided with the opportunity to share in the process.

970

GET INVOLVED
KELOWNA
VISITORS

371

TOTAL SURVEYS
COMPLETED

8

STAKEHOLDER
PARTICIPANTS

4

STAKEHOLDER
DISCUSSION
GUIDES RECEIVED

- **Stakeholder Discussion Guides:** Discussion guides were distributed to stakeholders as an additional format to provide comments. These interactive PDFs provided background information and space to provide written feedback.
- **Indigenous Engagement:** The following Indigenous engagement process was adopted for this project. First, the City of Kelowna will invite Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers, youth, band governance and administration from the syilx/ Okanagan community to a series of workshops. The workshops would gather input on a variety of park-related topics 'bundled' together, such as: 1) Inclusivity and removal of barriers; 2) Locations of significance; 3) Stewardship of the natural environment; 4) Climate resiliency; and 5) Public space: cultural events, programming, and public art. The workshop will continue to be held on an annual basis to address a variety of emerging park topics within the City of Kelowna, even after the Parks Master Plan is completed. Compensation for syilx/ Okanagan time will be crucial for the success of the workshops. Additional break-out sessions will follow the workshops with invited syilx/ Okanagan representatives for more comprehensive dialogue of each of the bundled park-related topics. Results of our upcoming Indigenous engagement will be documented in phases 2 and 3 of the Park Master Plan.

Communications

A full summary of the communications tactics is provided in Appendix D. Engagement events were promoted on a variety of City spaces, including social media, email bulletins, and news releases. Both paid and organic social media posts were used, including a giveaway post to incentivize survey completions. Engagement events were also promoted through a media release picked up by Kelowna Now and Castanet, an email bulletin, ad space in the City's Winter Recreation Guide, and a 2-week ad purchased on Castanet.net.

Engagement information was available at the online portal at www.getinvolved.kelowna.ca/parks-master-plan.

What We Asked

In Phase 1 we asked residents and stakeholders about their existing use of Kelowna parks and future aspirations for the parks system. We wanted to learn about what people love about the existing parks, how people access parks, and which activities they wish they could do in Kelowna in the future. The public survey was broken into 3 main sections and allowed participants to provide feedback on their favourite parks, their current use of parks, and park priorities (Appendix A). The discussion guides asked stakeholders about the challenges and opportunities that their organizations had identified within the current parks system (Appendix B). We also asked stakeholders about their priorities for the parks system over the next 20 years.

Optional demographic information was also collected from survey participants to help the City to determine how representative the engagement results are of the diversity of Kelownians. The questions help to identify who is participating and who may not be participating, informing future outreach and communication efforts, and context of the insights gathered.

Finally, survey participants were also invited to provide feedback on the engagement approach itself. This feedback will inform future engagement activities.

Engagement Findings

Public Survey

The public survey ran from November 2 – December 12, 2021 and was available in both online and paper formats. A total of 371 surveys were completed. There were five sections in the survey:

- Great Public Spaces
- Benefits of Parks
- Travelling to Parks
- Park Activities
- Park Planning Priorities

A copy of the survey is included Appendix X. It is important to note that the opinions expressed through this survey represent a selection of Kelowna's population and do not necessarily reflect the perspectives of all Kelownians.

Great Public Spaces

Favourite Parks in Kelowna

In this section, participants were encouraged to share their favourite parks in Kelowna and what makes these spaces great. Participants could provide photos of their favourite parks. The top ten Kelowna Parks mentioned were:

- Knox Mountain Park
- City Park
- Boyce-Gyro Beach Park
- Rotary Park
- Ben Lee Park
- Munson Pond Park
- Kinsmen Park
- Cedar Creek Dog Beach
- Dilworth Mountain Park
- Sarson's Beach Park

In addition to City parks, Mission Creek Greenway and Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park were also frequently mentioned as favourite parks in the area.

Participants provided many reasons they loved their parks—from specific amenities to their overall sense of place. A significant theme was access to trails and pathways for a variety of activities such as hiking, walking dogs, horseback riding, and mountain biking. Access to the waterfront was another key themes, with participants loving the beaches, waterfront walkways, dog parks, and boat access points. This was particularly true of City Park in Downtown. Several survey participants also spoke about views, natural habitat, mature trees, and loving the overall connection to nature in park spaces.

What Makes a Great Public Space

The survey asked participants to describe what makes a great public space. Participants told us that great public spaces are:

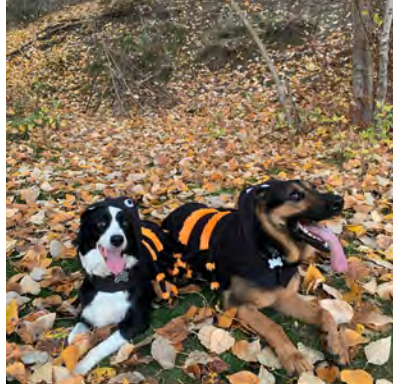
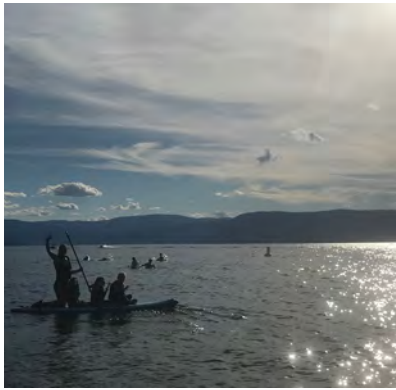
- Easy to get to
- Universally accessible for all ages and abilities
- Clean and safe
- Spacious and have room for many different activities (not overcrowded)
- Natural and treed
- Relaxing and provide a sense of retreat within the City

Some participants shared amenities they felt contribute to great public spaces, including:

- Seating
- Playspaces for children
- Flexible green space
- Spaces for dogs
- Washrooms
- Shade
- Beaches / water access
- Gathering spaces

Share a photo of your favourite place in Kelowna's parks

Selected photos shared by survey participants.



Other Places Kelowna Can Learn From

The survey asked for examples of great parks around the world that Kelowna can learn from. Participants could also attach a photo of the place they described. The responses spanned many continents, from closer to home in North America, to Europe, Asia, South America, Africa, and Australia. The most frequently provided examples were from closest to home, including:

- Vancouver, primarily Stanley Park, the Seawall, and Granville Island
- Toronto, including the Don Valley Trails, Trinity Belwoods Park, Waterfront, and Soraren Park
- Calgary, including Fish Creek Provincial Park, Nose Hill, and Edworthy Park
- Edmonton, primarily the North Saskatchewan River Valley

New York's Central Park and Highline Park were frequently mentioned international examples, as well as London's Hyde Park.

There were many reasons why participants chose their example places. Many people mentioned specific amenities that they loved in these parks, such as playgrounds, dog parks, large open green spaces, and picnicking areas. Others spoke about their love of the trails in these spaces for walking and cycling. Nature connection was another important element of these places and many described beautiful views and scenery. Several participants also noted that Kelowna could learn about accessibility in park space, describing accessible playgrounds, pathways, and waterfront access.

Share a photo of a place Kelowna can learn from

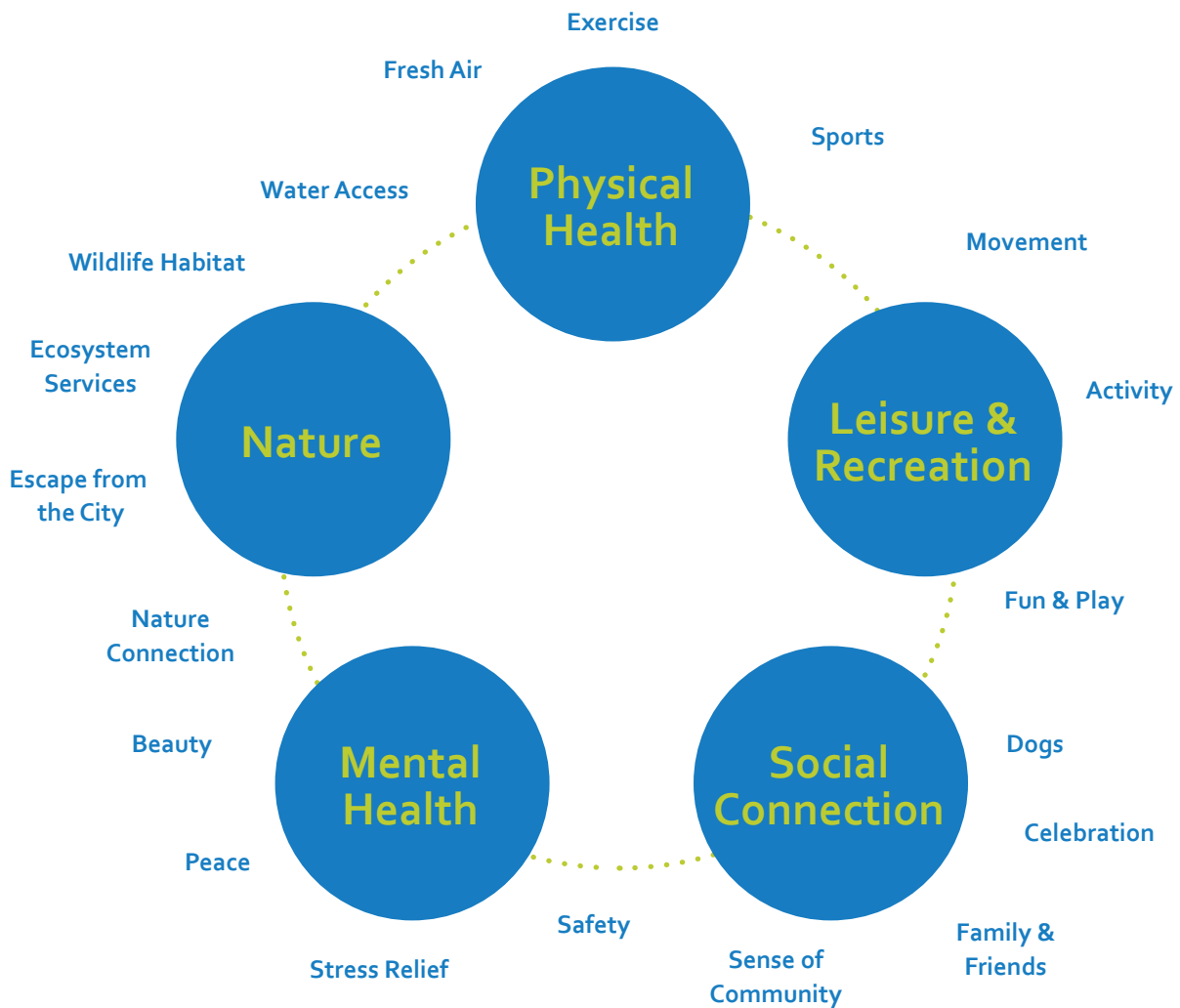
Selected photos shared by survey participants.



Benefits of Parks

Parks and outdoor greenspace within urban areas provide many benefits. Participants were asked to share the specific benefits that parks have provided in their own lives.

The most common theme throughout the responses was how parks contribute to overall health and wellbeing. Participants said that parks provide significant mental health benefits, offering a place to retreat, relax, connect with loved ones, connect with their community, and connect with nature. They also provide a range of physical benefits and ways to stay active through sports, trail based activities, and other recreational activities. Parks provide spaces for all ages to play, get moving, and connect with each other.



Travelling to Parks

As public spaces, it is important that parks are easy to access for everyone. Participants were asked how they usually travel to parks in Kelowna and how long it takes them.

Mode of Travel

Most participants indicated that they drive to get to parks, followed by walking and cycling. Out of the people who often drive to parks, about half indicated it takes them more than 15 minutes to get there. Most people that walk and cycle travel less than 15 minutes to get to a park. A small number of people indicated that it takes them more than 30 minutes to get to a park by any of the modes.

Few people said that they usually get to parks by skateboard/rollerblades or transit. A few people commented that they would be willing to take transit if it were available or when the pandemic is over.

Some of the alternate ways that people get to parks included: paddling, motorized scooter, running, and unicycling.

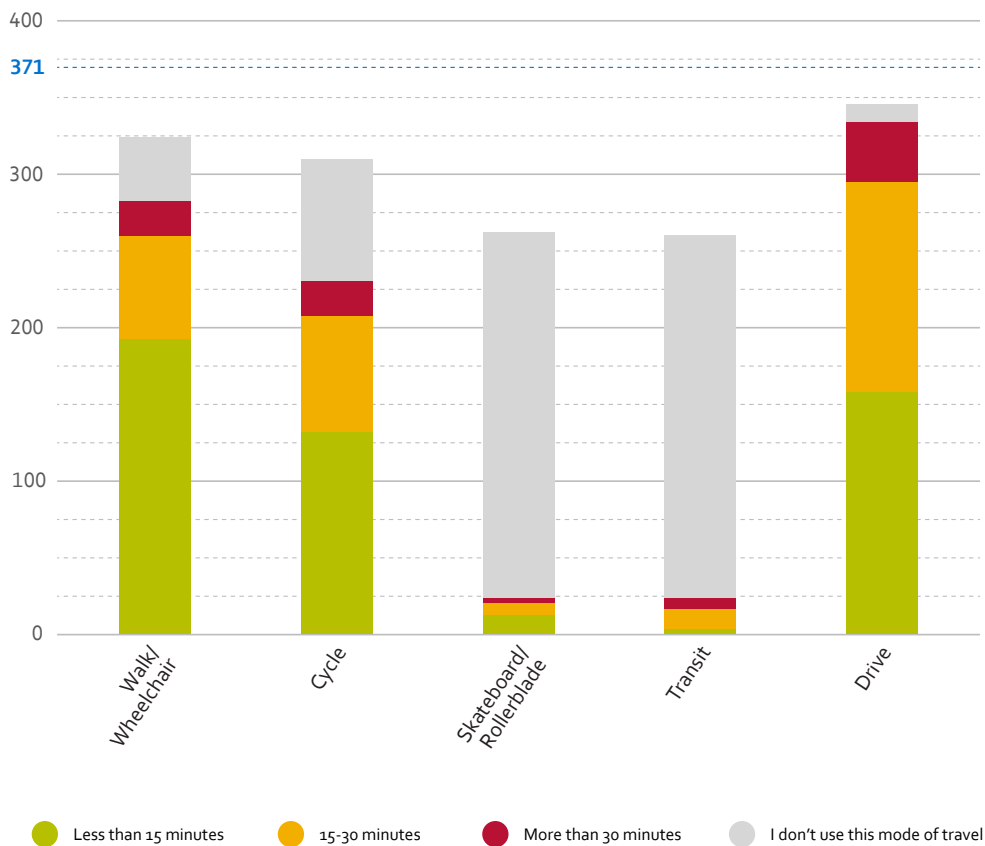
43%

of participants said they drive less than 15 minutes to get to parks

52%

of participants said they walk / wheelchair less than 15 minutes to get to parks

**How do you usually travel to get to parks in Kelowna?
How long does it typically take?**

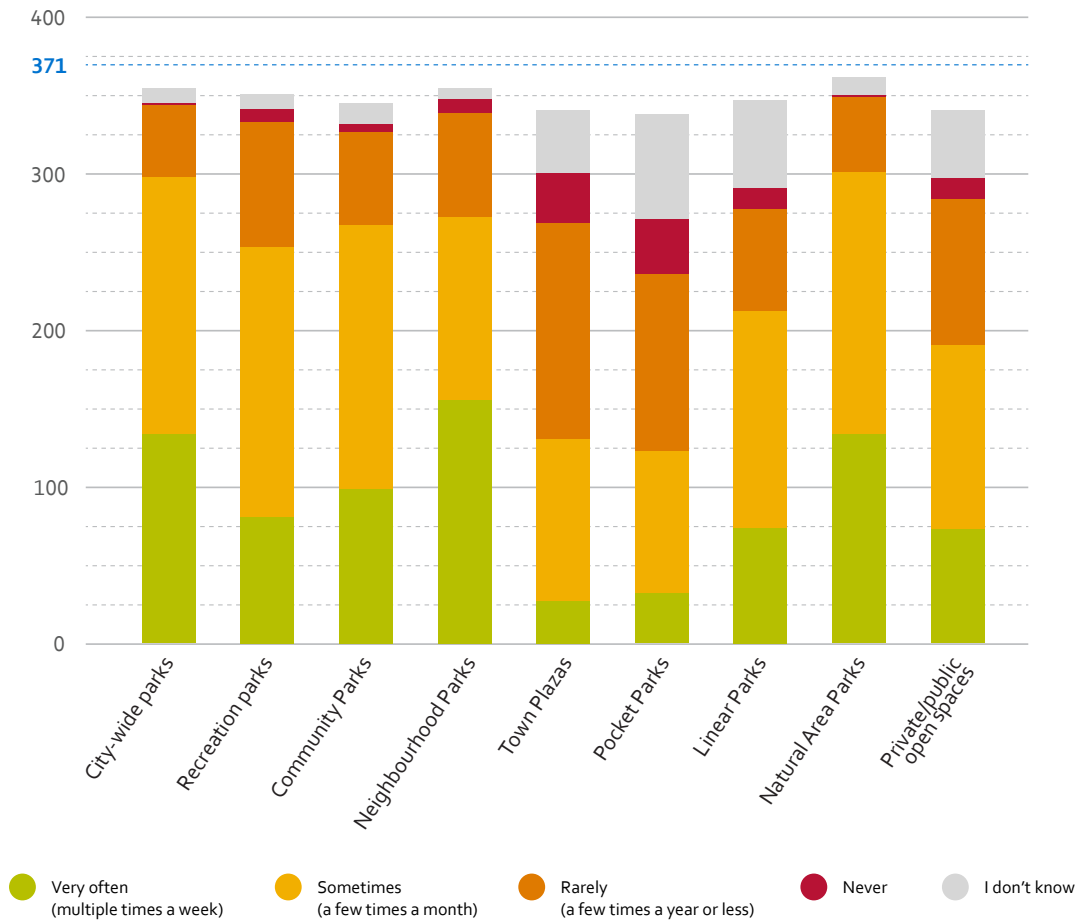


Types of Parks Visited

Survey participants were asked which types of parks they visited the most. A link was provided to a summary of the City of Kelowna parks classifications as background information to answer the question; however, several participants noted that they did not know the classification of the park(s) they visit.

Neighbourhood parks were the most frequently selected as visited "very often", followed closely by City-wide and Natural area parks. Town plazas and pocket parks were the least visited.

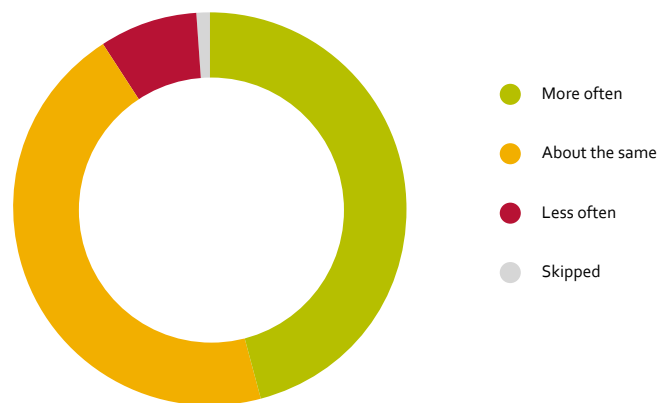
How frequently do you visit the following types of parks?



Impacts of COVID-19 on Park Use

Survey participants were asked if their use of parks changed during the pandemic. About 46% said that their use increased while 46% said that their use remained the same. 8% said that their use decreased.

To what extent has the COVID-19 pandemic changed how you frequently use parks?



Barriers to Accessing Parks

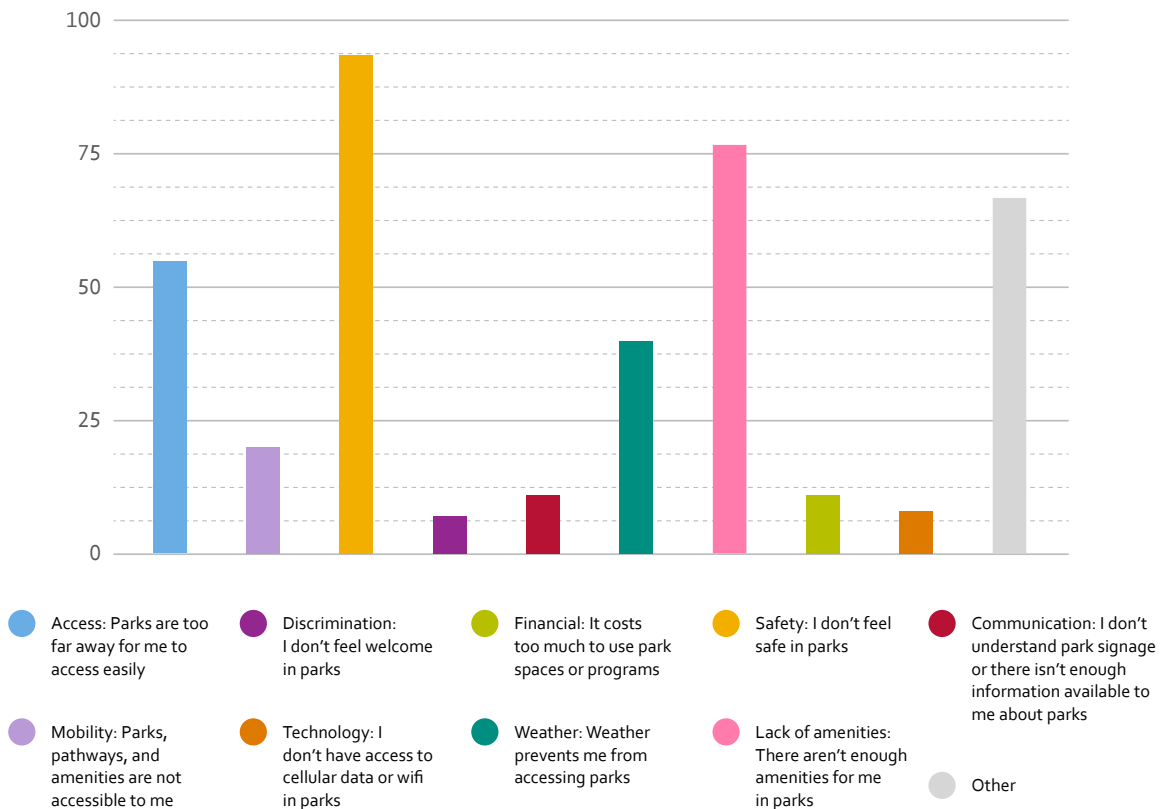
There are different types of barriers that prevent individuals from being able to access parks. Approximately 63% of participants indicated they had faced at least one of the listed barriers. The most selected barriers were safety (not feeling safe in parks), lack of amenities, other, and access (parks too far away). Some participants also faced mobility, financial, technological, and discrimination barriers.

Throughout the survey, participants shared some other barriers they face to access parks in Kelowna, including:

- Inability to take their dogs
- Overcrowding concerns, particularly related to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Lack of parking
- Specific safety concerns related to drug-use and homelessness presence in parks
- Accessibility barriers caused by ice/snow in winter

63%
of participants face
barriers to accessing
parks

Have you experienced any barriers to accessing parks?



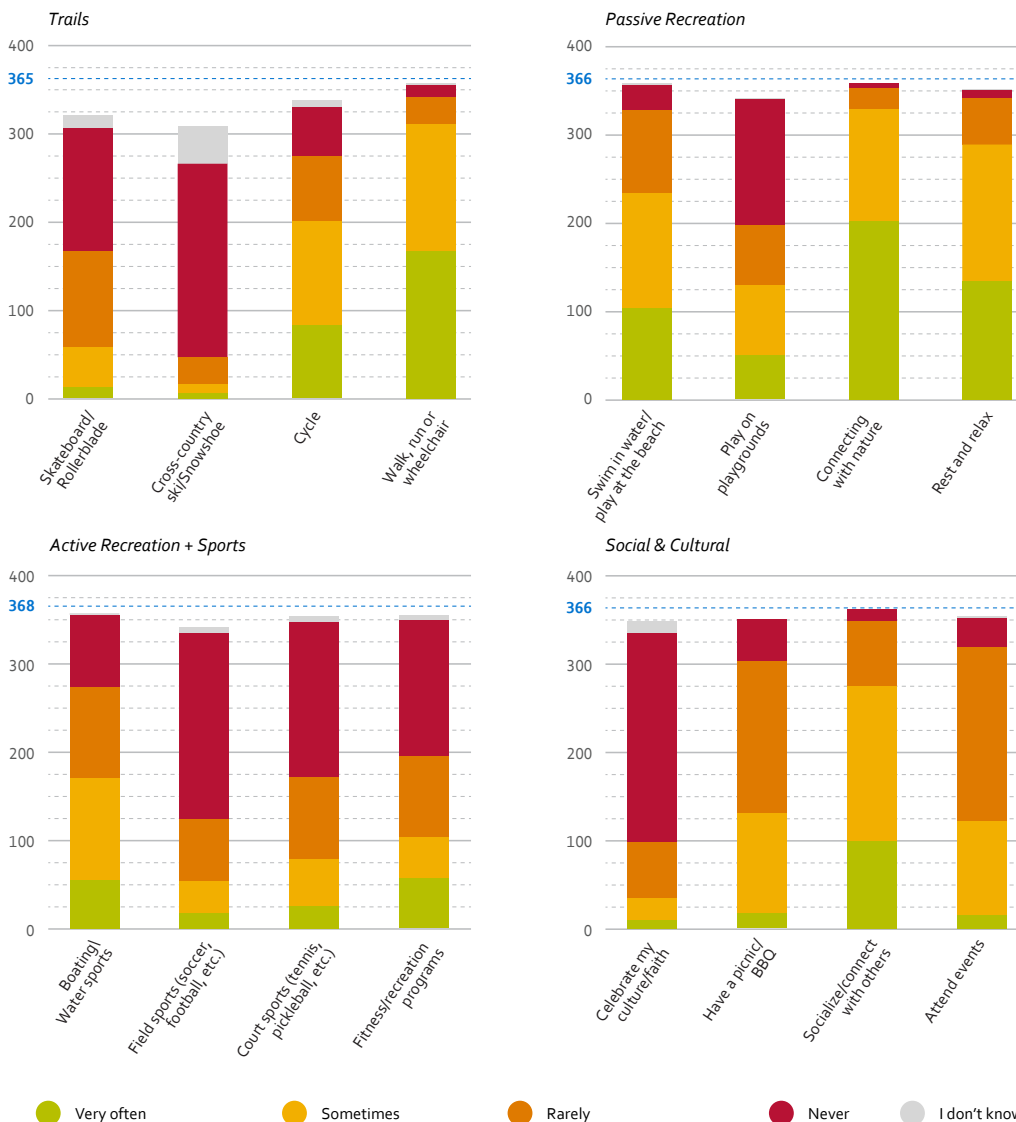
Park Activities

Participants were asked to share the activities they participate in at parks and how frequently they do them. The activity that participants indicated they participate in most frequently in parks was spending time connecting with nature, closely followed by walking / running / travel by wheelchair. Many participants also indicated that they use parks to rest and relax, socialize / connect with others, and swim / play at the beach very often. Generally, celebrating culture / faith, skateboarding / roller blading, attending events, playing field sports, and cross-country skiing ranked as less frequent activities that participants do in parks. This indicates an overall preference towards more self-directed passive outdoor leisure and recreation activities.

70%

of participants felt 'protecting and/or restoring natural areas/habitat' and 'preserving alignments of our natural creeks and surrounding native forests' were very important.

How frequently do you do the following activities in Kelowna's parks?



Other activities:

- Walking / playing with their dog
- Yoga
- Tai Chi
- Metal detecting
- Photography
- Painting
- Knitting
- Reading
- Juggling
- Paddle boarding
- Kiteboarding
- Nordic power walking
- People watching
- Playing games
- Rock climbing
- Birding
- Hiking
- Mountain biking
- Horseback riding
- Skating
- Attending weddings

Other activities people wish they could participate in at Kelowna parks:

- Use outdoor swimming pools / splash parks
- Consume alcohol in parks
- Rent bikes, paddleboards, & mobility scooters
- Food trucks / concession / cafes
- Bike skills park / skate park / roller blading
- More events and activities for kids and teens
- More indoor activities
- Fishing
- More dog agility parks / off-leash parks / beaches and being able to take a dog to certain parks
- Parkour
- Chess
- Rock climbing
- Cross county skiing, tobogganning, skating
- Marine trails / rowing
- Camping
- Orienteering
- Running, mountain biking, and cycle cross events / races
- More pickleball / tennis and volleyball courts
- More disc golf
- More markets / festivals / events / live music / movies in the park
- Boules / bocce ball
- Interactive attractions powered by renewable energy
- Public orchards / u-pick, botanical\horticultural gardens
- Guided tours
- More programmed activities like yoga, tai chi, dance, pickup sports, art
- More parking at the waterfront
- Public BBQ pits
- Continuous path along the waterfront
- Public golf course
- Adaptive parks/sensory gardens
- Volunteer / participate in habitat conservation and trail design
- Art walks
- Outdoor gyms

Park Planning Priorities

Participants were asked how important they think different parks planning considerations are for the future of Kelowna's parks system. These include considerations related to connectivity and access, acquisition and parks development, amenities, environmental sustainability, inclusivity, sense of place, and maintenance and operations. Overall, all priorities were indicated as important, with very few people ranking any of the listed priorities as "not important".

Environmental Sustainability considerations were ranked the highest overall. Of these priorities, "Protecting and/or restoring natural areas/habitat" was the most important, closely followed by "Preserving alignments of our natural creeks and surrounding native forests". These two choices were selected by over 260 participants (70%) as being very important to the future of the parks system.

Sense of Place considerations were ranked as the lowest priority overall. Of these priorities, public art was the lowest ranked, with only 51 participants (13%) saying this was very important to them. However, the majority still felt that this was still important or slightly important, with only 64 participants (17%) saying it was not important. tourism and sporting events was the second lowest ranked priority, with 59 participants (16%) ranking it as not important.

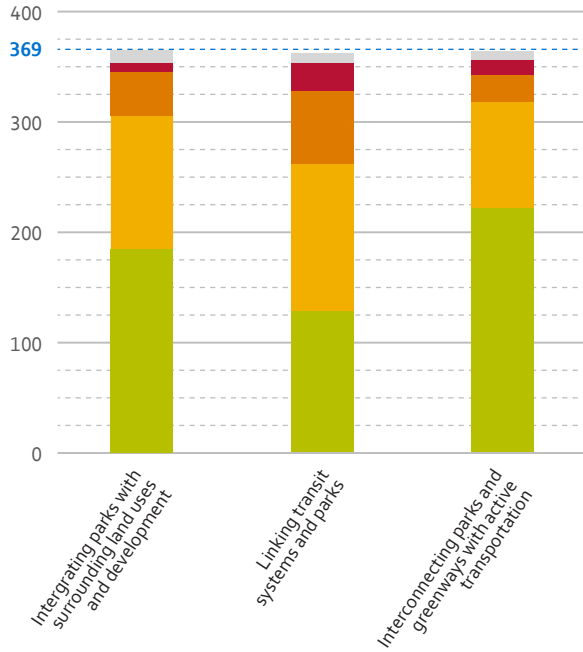
Outside of the Environmental Sustainability priorities, some additional high importance priorities were in the Acquisition and Park Development and Maintenance and Operations considerations. These included:

- "new waterfront parkland to create a continuous waterfront experience"
- "new parks within growth areas"
- "focusing on neighbourhoods that are underserved by parks"
- "naturalization initiatives to reduce irrigation and upkeep"
- "maintenance and upgrades for existing amenities"

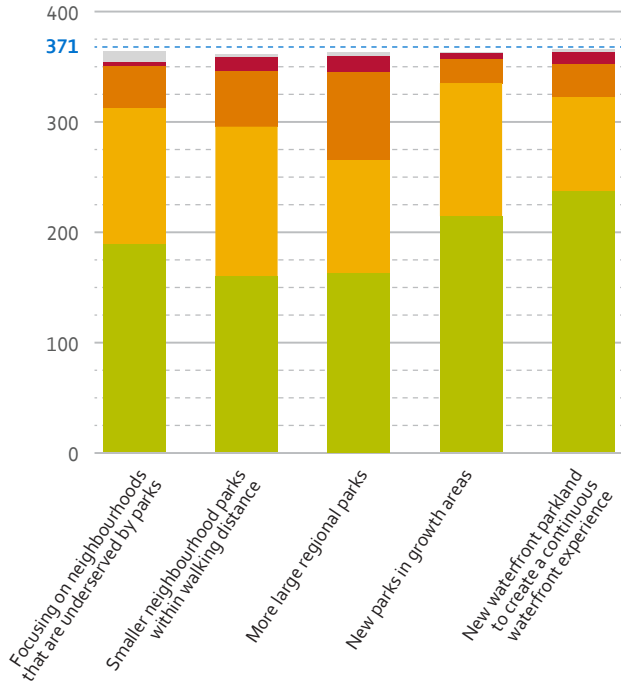
In summary, there was very little disagreement with the priorities listed, but some considerations like environmental sustainability and acquisition & development were considered to be the most important for the future of Kelowna's park planning.

How important do you think the following are to the future of Kelowna's parks system?

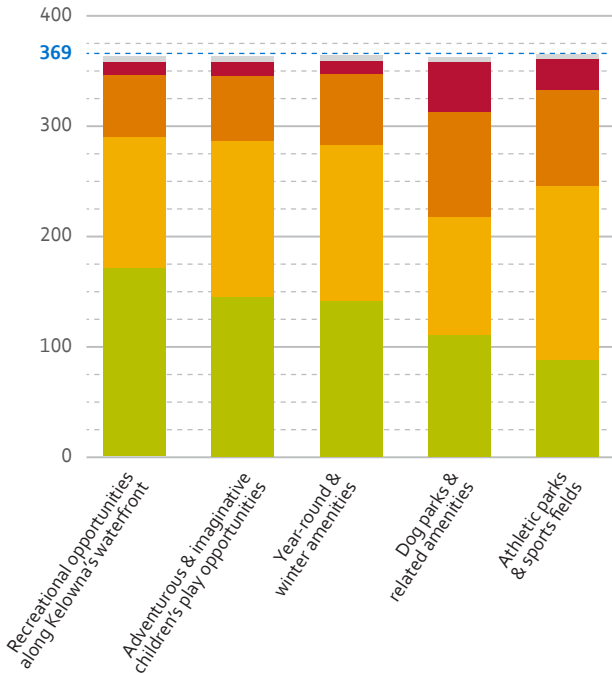
Access & Connectivity Considerations



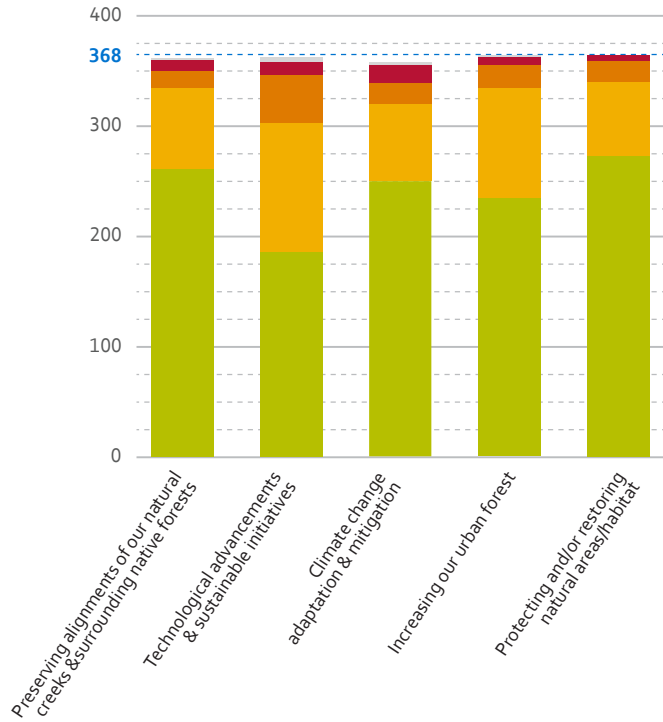
Acquisition & Park Development



Amenity Considerations

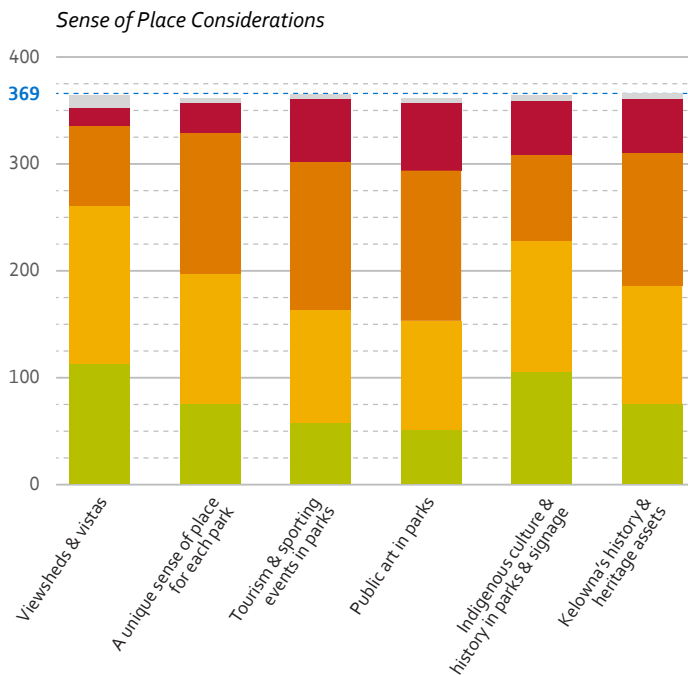
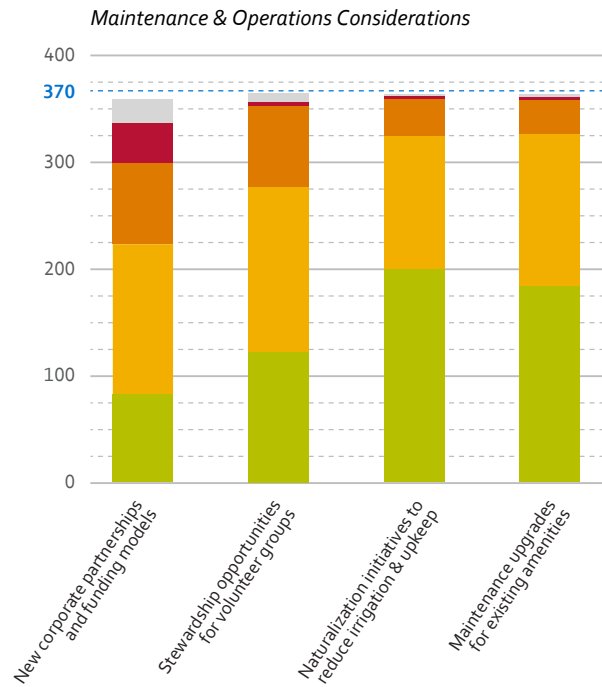
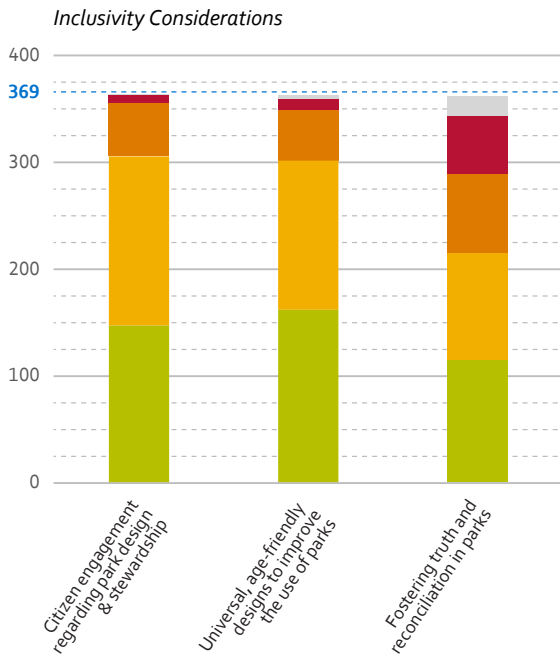


Environmental Sustainability Considerations



● Very important
 ● Important
 ● Slightly important
 ● Not important
 ● I don't know

How important do you think the following are to the future of Kelowna's parks system?



Other priorities the City should consider include:

- Retaining or improving access to the waterfront
- Better / more parking
- More sports courts
- New bike parks / facilities
- Ensuring all new development includes parkland
- More safe and year-round public washrooms
- Responding to homelessness and drug use in parks
- Accessible playgrounds
- Ensuring parks remain free to use

● Very important
 ● Important
 ● Slightly important
 ● Not important
 ● I don't know

Stakeholder Discussion Guides

The discussion guides were provided to stakeholders as an additional method to share comments. Four stakeholder organizations completed discussion guides. The guide provided background information on the project and asked stakeholders about how their organizations use parks and what their park needs will look like over the next five years. Stakeholders were also asked about:

- Park barriers
- The benefits that their communities receive from parks
- What makes a great park
- Key parks priorities for their organizations

Key Insights

Trends in Park Use

Stakeholders expect park use to increase in the next five years as the City grows and participation in outdoor recreation increases. Park usage has especially increased over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, as the benefits of parks become more apparent. Some benefits shared include ecological benefits, serenity, and sense of community that parks provide. Parks promote healthier lifestyles and provide a place for kids to play and learn about nature. Parks also protect biodiversity, help mitigate the effects of urban heat island effect, and are a sustainable means of flood control.

What Makes Great Public Spaces

Participants shared that parks should provide a connection to nature, space for contemplation, and educational opportunities. Parks should also provide green space close to residents and provides amenities that foster healthy living and play, including sports fields, playgrounds, event space/facilities, shelters, and seating. Washrooms, water, and appropriate lighting and safety measures are also essential. The park system should be sustainable and climate friendly. Some examples of excellent park spaces include Central Park in New York, Oliver Linear Park along the Okanagan River, and Peachland Linear Park.

Barriers to Accessing Parks

Participants mentioned a number of barriers to recreation that their community members face, including limited access, a lack of parking, and expensive fees. Another barrier was missing amenities including a lack of washrooms, drinking water, wheelchair accessibility, and playgrounds. Safety concerns, especially involving drug use or homeless populations in parks were also shared. Stakeholders also noted concern with limited space for biodiversity uses rather than recreational uses.

Park Priorities

Participants shared in the importance of ensuring connectivity and access, inclusivity, and environmental sustainability in Kelowna's future parks system. There was also support for the need to acquire and develop more park space and to maintain these spaces. However, there were differing opinions on the level of importance of certain amenities in parks. Some participants viewed waterfront amenities as very important while others advocated for keeping the waterfront in its natural state. In general, there were differing opinions amongst stakeholders about prioritizing natural park spaces focused on biodiversity and the need for amenities. Some participants felt creating a sense of place was not a top priority. In particular, public art and tourism were not seen as important, with concerns over the commercialization of Kelowna's park space.

Stakeholder Workshops

Two stakeholder workshops were held as part of Phase 1 of engagement. Attendees from 8 different organizations participated in the workshops. The small group discussions were facilitated virtually, with the use of an online whiteboard, where participants could provide comments while the facilitators documented the conversation in real-time.

The discussion was focused on challenges and opportunities in parks and park priorities.

Challenges

Participants shared a number of challenges facing parks, including access/connectivity, specific amenity gaps, and the transparency or effectiveness of City decision making about parks.

Access and Connectivity

Stakeholders mentioned the need for public transportation connections and accessible trails, as well as a desire for a greater connected trail system. Parking was a noted issue, including parking overflow into residential communities and the need for accessible parking spots.

Overuse of park amenities and trails was indicated as an issue. Separating uses and trails could help mitigate this barrier. Trails need to be maintained to minimize the creation of informal trails that harm the surrounding ecological areas. Education on proper trail etiquette and care is also needed.

Amenity Gaps

Stakeholders mentioned several gaps in amenity provision across the City park system, including a lack of accessible water access points, amenities for youth, event infrastructure, washrooms and drinking water facilities. Some shared that there is not currently adequate space for dog owners, as many dog parks are too small for dogs to safely run around.

Decision Making

Stakeholders voiced concerns over some of the City's past decisions related to parks. There was a desire for better communication between the City and communities

before decisions are made about parks. It was also suggested that a clear vision for each park is also needed as a basis for conversations about park programming.

Some raised concerns about amenities becoming obsolete as recreation trends change (such as playgrounds in neighbourhoods where children have grown up).

Opportunities

Participants shared a number of opportunities for Kelowna's park system, including providing additional interpretation in parks, enhancing volunteer opportunities, and capitalizing on new recreation trends. In general, stakeholders also felt there were opportunities to create more parks, trail connections, and natural areas.

Park Interpretation

Stakeholders expressed that there is an opportunity to provide more educational and interpretive opportunities in parks, particularly along trails. There are several organizations already doing historical research that the City could work with.

Volunteer Network

Kelowna has an extensive volunteer network. There is an immense opportunity for the City to collaborate with these groups more. Volunteers could support trails maintenance and ecological restoration and conservation.

New Recreation Trends

Participants cited a number of new recreational trends that Kelowna should consider as future opportunities within the parks system. The City could provide more courts for growing sports like tennis and pickleball. Water parks and splash pads are also increasing in popularity, as are skate and BMX parks, climbing, and trail-based recreation (such as mountain biking). Electric bikes are increasing and the City will need to contend with the unique needs and concerns that come with this, such as conflicting use of park spaces.

Park Priorities

Stakeholders were asked to rank the same priorities as presented in the public survey. There was general agreement on the importance of acquiring parkland in

Conclusion and Overall Themes

The feedback we heard in Phase 1 covered a wide variety of issues, opportunities, and insights. Participants shared with us many reasons why they value Kelowna's parks and many considerations for future planning to make them even more vibrant, inclusive, and active. The following subsections speak to some of the main themes heard throughout all forms of engagement in Phase 1.

Leisure & Respite

Parks provide respite, places to connect with nature, and a retreat from the business of urban environments. Though events and other programmed activities were also mentioned, many value parks as spaces to get away from noise, relax, and walk. Passive recreation and leisure activities like socializing, playing, and relaxing were mentioned more frequently in responses than organized sports and events.

This theme was tied closely to how parks have helped people during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic - by providing a place of retreat and space to recreate safely with others.

Waterfront parks were noted as particularly special as places for leisure, especially in the summertime.

Nature

Natural areas are important for people, wildlife, and the planet. Protecting and restoring natural areas were cited as the top priorities for future park planning. Stakeholder feedback also highlighted that there is a significant community of volunteers dedicated to conservation activities in Kelowna. There are many potential opportunities for the City to work together with these groups in the future to collaboratively work towards environmental sustainability goals in parks.

Overall, participants value their opportunities to connect with nature and said that this was important to their wellbeing and overall health. Enjoying views of the natural areas and going for nature walks, hikes, or bike rides were key reasons why people said they love existing parks in Kelowna. Being in nature was also mentioned as something commonly shared with future generations, with many participants noting how they loved to explore natural areas with their families, children, and pets. Preserving natural areas for both ecological health and citizen wellbeing will be important for future parks planning.

Dogs in Parks

For many people, not being able to bring their dog to a park or trail is a barrier to use. There are not enough local dog facilities and these facilities require users to drive to get there. Greater enforcement of rules for dog owners and restrictions on which parks dogs are allowed in are also needed.

Park Access

Neighbourhood access to parks and active transportation connections to parks will be important to address within the Parks Master Plan. Focusing on growth areas and underserved neighbourhood parks was considered a greater priority than creating more regional parks. This aligned with how people travel to parks. Currently, many people use active transportation (walking and cycling) to access parks, but more people still drive to parks. There was a desire expressed to make parks more accessible, either through better pathway connections, additional parking, or transit access. Overflowing parking in residential communities from highly subscribed parks will need to be considered.

Waterfront connectivity was another theme throughout the engagement. There was a desire to see a more continuous public pathway along Kelowna's waterfront and to generally have more space and access to the water, given how busy it gets in the summer.

Safety & Inclusivity

Parks should be accessible and inclusive of everyone, regardless of age, mobility, culture, gender, sexual orientation, or ability. Many people said that they wanted to see more universally accessible facilities in parks to support access, like washrooms, pathways, parking, playgrounds, and beach access points. Washrooms and drinking water facilities were seen as particularly important amenities to make parks inclusive, and many wanted to see these facilities open year-round.

A major concern to address is the perception of safety in parks. Many people expressed that they did not feel safe in parks because of the presence of people experiencing homelessness and drug use. Parks are also an important space for people experiencing homelessness, and often the only safe place for them to go during the day. Moving forward, the needs of both those experiencing homelessness and other park users will need to be considered to ensure that everyone feels safe and welcome in parks.

In conclusion, we heard that parks are vital to the health and wellbeing of the community. There are many things to love about Kelowna's existing parks, from the stunning views of the landscape, the beaches along the waterfront, amenities, and trails. There are also many opportunities to make Kelowna's parks even more accessible, inclusive, safe, and vibrant. The Parks Master Plan will bring together stakeholder and public insights to create a plan that embraces what makes Kelowna's parks great while addressing challenges to the park system.

Next Steps

Thank you to everyone who participated in Phase 1!

Your feedback will be used to create the vision and priorities for the Kelowna City Parks Master Plan. The public will be given another opportunity to contribute to the creation of the Parks Master Plan during Phase 2. Stay tuned!

Visit www.getinvolved.kelowna.ca/parks-master-plan for more information about the project and to sign-up for project updates.

Appendix A : Public Survey

Kelowna Parks Master Plan

Phase 1 Public Survey

Introduction

The City of Kelowna is creating a City Parks Master Plan to guide the expansion, development, and operations of our parks system as the City grows. This master planning process will guide what the future of our parks in Kelowna will look like by defining a collaborative vision and goals. Residents and community stakeholders all have an opportunity to influence the decisions about the key priorities for our parks system over the next 20-40 years.

Get Involved!

We are currently in Phase 1 and are seeking your ideas and insights to guide future direction for our parks system. Your feedback will be used to develop the city-wide park vision and priorities. The future phases of the project will focus on neighbourhood specific priorities and eventually the creation of the draft City Parks Master Plan.

This survey has five sections:

- **Part 1:** Memories & Stories
- **Part 2:** Current Use of Parks
- **Part 3:** Parks Priorities
- **Part 4:** About You
- **Part 5:** Participant Feedback

Please complete and return this survey by December 5th:

Scan and email to engage@o2design.com
OR drop off a physical copy at:

- Lobby Reception - City Hall,
1435 Water Street, Kelowna, BC V1Y1J4

Thank you for your participation!

Part 1: Memories & Stories

What is your favourite place in Kelowna's parks? What do you love about it?

What benefits do parks provide in your life?

Great Parks & Public Spaces

The Kelowna Official Community Plan (OCP) identifies public spaces, including parks, as one of its goals: "Create great public spaces that bring people together".

In your words, what makes a great park or public space?

What are some parks and public spaces from around the world Kelowna could learn from? Why?

Part 2: Current Use of Parks

How frequently do you visit the following types of parks?

(Check the boxes that apply)

	Very Often (multiple times a week)	Sometimes (few times a month)	Rarely (few times a year or less)	Never	I Don't Know
City-wide Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Neighbourhood Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Town Plazas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pocket Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Linear Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural Area Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Private Public Open Spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

To what extent has the COVID-19 pandemic changed how frequently you use parks?

- More often
- About the same
- Less often

If you wish, please explain:

Park Access

How do you usually travel to get to parks in Kelowna?

(Check the boxes that apply)

	Less than 15 minutes	15-30 minutes	More than 30 minutes	I don't use this mode of travel
Walk/wheelchair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cycle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skateboard/rollerblade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other:

Share the mode of travel you use if not listed.

Park Activities

How frequently do you do the following activities in Kelowna's parks?

Trails

	Very Often (multiple times a week)	Sometimes (few times a month)	Rarely (few times a year or less)	Never	I Don't Know
Walk/wheelchair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cycle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skateboard/rollerblade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cross-country Ski or Snowshoe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Passive Recreation & Leisure

	Very Often (multiple times a week)	Sometimes (few times a month)	Rarely (few times a year or less)	Never	I Don't Know
Rest and relax	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spend time connecting with nature	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Play on playground	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swim in the water/play at the beach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Active Recreation & Sports

	Very Often (multiple times a week)	Sometimes (few times a month)	Rarely (few times a year or less)	Never	I Don't Know
Participate in organized fitness/recreation programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Play court sports (e.g. tennis, pickleball, basketball)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Play field sports (e.g. soccer, football, rugby, ultimate frisbee)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access the water for boating/water sports	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Social & Cultural

	Very Often (multiple times a week)	Sometimes (few times a month)	Rarely (few times a year or less)	Never	I Don't Know
Attend events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socialize/connect with others	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have a picnic/BBQ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Celebrate my culture/faith	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other:

Share the activities you use parks for, if not listed.

What activities do you wish you could participate in within Kelowna's parks that are unavailable today?

Barriers to Park Use

Have you experienced any barriers to accessing parks? Select all that apply.

- Access:** Parks are too far away for me to access easily.
- Mobility:** Parks, pathways, and amenities are not accessible to me.
- Safety:** I don't feel safe in parks.
- Discrimination:** I don't feel welcome in parks.
- Communication:** I don't understand park signage or there is not enough information available to me about parks.
- Weather:** Weather prevents me from accessing parks.
- Lack of Amenities:** There are not enough amenities for me in parks.
- Financial:** It costs too much to use park spaces or programs.
- Technology:** I don't have access to cellular data or wifi in parks.

Other:

Please specify.

Part 3: Park Priorities

How important do you think each of the following considerations are to the future of Kelowna's parks system?

Connectivity & Access

	Very important	Important	Slightly Important	Not Important	I Don't Know
Interconnecting parks and greenways with active transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Linking transit systems and parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Integrating parks with surrounding land use and development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Acquisition & Park Development

	Very important	Important	Slightly Important	Not Important	I Don't Know
New waterfront parkland to create a continuous waterfront experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New parks in growth areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More large regional parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Smaller neighbourhood parks within walking distance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focusing on neighbourhoods that are underserved by parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Park Priorities

Amenities

	Very important	Important	Slightly Important	Not Important	I Don't Know
Athletic parks and sports fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dog parks and related amenities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Year-round and winter amenities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adventurous and imaginative children's play opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreational opportunities along Kelowna's waterfront	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Environmental Sustainability

	Very important	Important	Slightly Important	Not Important	I Don't Know
Protecting and restoring natural areas and habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increasing our urban forest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change adaptation and mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Technological advancements and sustainable initiatives (Ex: solar or waste diversion)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preserving alignments of our original creeks and surrounding native forests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Inclusivity

	Very important	Important	Slightly Important	Not Important	I Don't Know
Fostering truth and reconciliation in parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Universal, age-friendly designs to improve the use of parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Citizen engagement regarding park design and stewardship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Sense of Place

	Very important	Important	Slightly Important	Not Important	I Don't Know
A unique sense of place for each park (themes, attractions, views, ecology)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indigenous culture and history in parks and signage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public art in parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tourism and events in parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kelowna's history and heritage assets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Viewsheds and vistas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Maintenance & Operations

	Very important	Important	Slightly Important	Not Important	I Don't Know
Maintenance and upgrades for existing amenities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Naturalization initiatives to reduce irrigation and upkeep	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stewardship opportunities for volunteer groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New partnerships and funding models	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What else do you think is important to consider in planning the future of Kelowna's parks?

Part 4: About You

We are collecting this information in order to better understand who we're reaching - and who we're not - so that we can work towards creating engagement opportunities that are more inclusive and equitable.

What's your postal code?

Do you have access to outdoor space at home?

- Private yard/greenspace
- Private balcony/deck
- Shared yard/greenspace
- Shared balcony/deck
- No outdoor space

How long have you lived in Kelowna?

- Less than 1 year
- 1-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-20 years
- More than 20 years
- I don't live in Kelowna

What gender do you identify with?

- Female
- Male
- Non-binary/Gender-fluid
(specify, if you wish)
- Prefer not to answer

Which of the following best describes your racial identity?
(select all that apply)

- Prefer to not say
- Asian
- Black
- Indigenous
- Mixed-race
- South Asian
- White

What best describes your household composition?

- Living alone
- Single parent living with children
- Couple living with children
- Couple with no children living at home
- Adult(s) living with dependent parent(s)
- Adult(s) living with other adult(s) (related or unrelated)
- Some combination of the above

Part 5: Participation Feedback

To ensure we are providing participation opportunities that work for you, we want to know how we did and what can be improved for next time.

Was the information easy to understand?

- Yes
- Mostly
- Somewhat
- No

Did you have enough information to participate in a meaningful way?

- Yes
- Mostly
- Somewhat
- No
- Not sure

Do you understand how your input will be used?

- Yes
- Somewhat
- No

Do you have any additional feedback you would like to share with the team?

Appendix B : Stakeholder Discussion Guide

Kelowna Parks Master Plan

Phase 1 Stakeholder Discussion Guide

Introduction

The City of Kelowna is creating a City Parks Master Plan to guide the expansion, development, and operations of our parks system as the City grows.

This master planning process will guide what the future of our parks in Kelowna will look like by defining a collaborative vision and goals. Residents and community stakeholders all have an opportunity to influence the decisions about the key priorities for our parks system over the next 20-40 years.

Get involved!

We are currently in Phase 1 and are seeking your ideas and insights to guide future direction for our parks system. Your feedback will be used to develop the city-wide vision and park priorities. The future phases of the project will focus on neighbourhood specific priorities and eventually the creation of the draft City Parks Master Plan.

How to provide your feedback:

1. Gather members of your organization to discuss the questions/ topics outlined in this PDF
2. Use Adobe Reader to open the PDF and type your responses into the form fields. Click Save.
3. Send your completed PDF to engage@ozdesign.com by December 12, 2021.

Thank you for your participation!

Name of business or organization:

Contact name:

Email address:

Part 1: Current Use of Parks

Tell us about your organization and how you use Kelowna's parks system.

Briefly outline your organization's main purpose and activities

Who does your organization serve in the community and how?

Approximately how many people do you serve?

How does your organization use parks and park facilities/amenities?

Do you use bookable or non-bookable spaces?

For what age groups do you provide programs and activities?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children (0-5) | <input type="checkbox"/> Adults (18-39) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (6-12) | <input type="checkbox"/> Adults (40-64) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teens (13-17) | <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors (65+) |

How frequently does your organization use parks?

What is your organization's expected need over the next five years for use of parks?

- Increase
- Decrease
- Remain Stable

If you said 'increase' to the previous question, do you expect to require additional space as well as more frequent use? Please explain.

For example, are trends such as growth in membership, change in user demographics, or change in user preferences/needs contributing factors?

Has your organization experienced any barriers to using Kelowna's parks? Please explain.

For example:

- Funding/fees
- Challenges booking facilities
- Availability of amenities
- Location/Transportation

Do the communities you service experience barriers to access parks? Please explain.

For example:

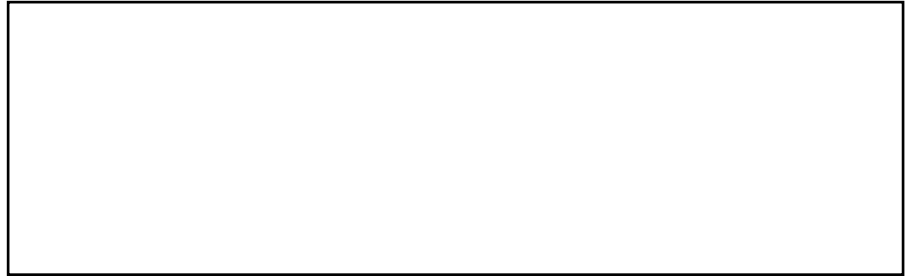
- Access (distance or mode of transportation)
- Mobility
- Safety
- Discrimination
- Communication
- Weather
- Lack of Amenities
- Financial (such as permit fees or cost of recreational equipment)
- Technological
- Time

Part 2: Visioning

Share your insights on what we should achieve through this parks master planning process.

Benefits

How do parks benefit the people and the communities you serve?



Great Public Places

The Kelowna Official Community Plan (OCP) identifies public spaces, including parks, as one of its goals: "Create great public spaces that bring people together".

In your words, what makes a great park or public space?



What are some other parks and public spaces from around the world Kelowna could learn from? Why?



Part 3: Priorities

The City Parks Master Plan will expand on the direction within the OCP, setting out the priorities for the system for the next 10, 20, and 30 years.

Key Priorities

What do you think are the most important priorities to address for the future of the parks system?

Connectivity & Access

	Very important	Important	Slightly Important	Not Important	I Don't Know
Interconnecting parks and greenways with active transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Linking transit systems and parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Integrating parks with surrounding land use and development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Environmental Sustainability

	Very important	Important	Slightly Important	Not Important	I Don't Know
Protecting and restoring natural areas and habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increasing our urban forest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change adaptation and mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Technological advancements and sustainable initiatives (Ex: solar or waste diversion)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preserving alignments of our original creeks and surrounding native forests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Amenities

	Very important	Important	Slightly Important	Not Important	I Don't Know
Athletic parks and sports fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dog parks and related amenities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Year-round and winter amenities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adventurous and imaginative children's play opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreational opportunities along Kelowna's waterfront	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Acquisition & Park Development

	Very important	Important	Slightly Important	Not Important	I Don't Know
New waterfront parkland to create a continuous waterfront experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New parks in growth areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More large regional parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Smaller neighbourhood parks within walking distance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focusing on neighbourhoods that are underserved by parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Inclusivity

	Very important	Important	Slightly Important	Not Important	I Don't Know
Fostering truth and reconciliation in parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Universal, age-friendly designs to improve the use of parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Citizen engagement regarding park design and stewardship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Sense of Place

	Very important	Important	Slightly Important	Not Important	I Don't Know
A unique sense of place for each park (themes, attractions, views, ecology)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indigenous culture and history in parks and signage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public art in parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tourism and events in parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kelowna's history and heritage assets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Viewsheds and vistas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Maintenance & Operations

	Very important	Important	Slightly Important	Not Important	I Don't Know
Maintenance and upgrades for existing amenities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Naturalization initiatives to reduce irrigation and upkeep	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stewardship opportunities for volunteer groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New partnerships and funding models	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

General Comments

Of those you selected as important, why do you think they are important?

What else do you think is important to consider in planning the future of Kelowna's parks?

Appendix C : Poster

Let's imagine the future of Kelowna's Parks!

The City of Kelowna is creating a City Parks Master Plan to guide the expansion, development, and operations of our parks system as the City grows over the next 20-40 years.

Get Involved!

Scan the QR code to share your parks experience now.

To learn more and take the survey visit getinvolved.kelowna.ca/parks-master-plan



We are currently in Phase 1.
Survey closes December 5.



Appendix D : Communications Tactics

Communications Tactics Summary

Building public engagement is part of creating a stronger community, stronger democracy, and a stronger Kelowna. To enhance the number of meaningful engagement opportunities offered the public, and to augment the types of mass communication tools used within Phase One of the Parks Master Plan, the City of Kelowna chose to erect: sound-off boards; and, (ii) digital engagement posters throughout prominent park and trail locations within Kelowna. In addition, the City forwarded: (iii) media releases, (iv) undertook a month-long communication advertisement campaign through local newspaper outlets, and (v) started a five-week social media campaign in order to improve the chances of our public engagement messages being received.

SOUND-OFF BOARDS

A series of sound-off boards were installed to engage directly on-site with park users at four prominent locations: City Park near the Sails Sculpture, Stuart Park; Brent Lee Park; and, Mission Recreation Park near the H2O Centre.

A sound off board is a vertical 4-feet by 8-feet, self-standing and double-sided panel used for displaying engagement posters with an overhead roof structure so that it can be located in outdoor environments. Through written messages on self-adhesive posting notes placed onto sound-off boards, the participants were encouraged to share their experiences and their challenges with the existing parks system, and how the City can do better to meet participants' park needs and the needs of the community in the future.

The sound-off boards were located within four of the City's largest and most visited parks from November 4 to December 6, 2021. The boards provided highly visible and valuable information about the Parks Master Plan project for hundreds of passersby, with over 50 participants choosing to post their opinions and concerns on the boards.

City Park / The Sails Sculpture: November 4 to 10, 2021

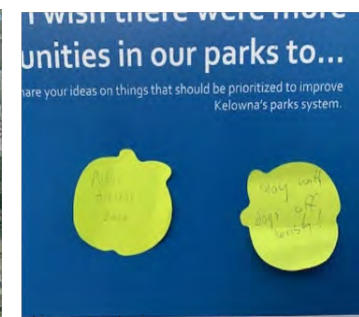


Brent Lee Park: November 17 to 24, 2021



Stuart Park: November 10 to 17, 2021





ADVERTISEMENTS:

Although communication technology has evolved considerably over the past decades, advertisements in newspapers remain the oldest method of mass public engagement. Advertising in local newspapers remains one of the most popular, and trusted engagement methods, to reach and engage the public using its long-established audience range. Moreover, local newspapers are available to practically every household in Kelowna and has the ability to gain further visibility especially in digital form. The City began its advertisement campaign from November 4 to December 2, 2021 with the placement of project and engagement survey notices in community newspapers.

DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT POSTERS

Digital engagement posters were exhibited as a stand-alone mass engagement method to raise the project's awareness, draw-in our prospective parks' audience, and to encourage them to participate in our electronic survey. Sixteen, one-sided, A1-sized posters were secured within all urban cores. Locations included light standards located in a number of popular City parks, along linear trails and within lobbies of recreation centres throughout Kelowna. The posters remained in place from November 1 to December 20, 2021.

The digital engagement posters were used to attract viewers' attention and interest while being inexpensive to produce. With strong imagery, attractive signage, and short and concise text, the digital engagement posters provided colorful, attractive learning media with fast and efficient delivery of key engagement information used to attract park survey participants, particularly when placed in high traffic locations with good exposure. A quick response, or QR code was prominently featured on the posters by which large amounts of digital information could be easily accessed, or decoded by participants through the camera of their smartphones. The QR code

worked with the smartphone's Internet browser to direct participant to online parks master plan engagement content quickly and efficiently. People also had the opportunity to access our resident survey via online questions to ask staff directly involved with project.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Social networking sites enabled the City of Kelowna to promote and share information on our park master plan engagement process through videos, photos and text. The social media campaign was in place from November

1 to December 20, 2021.

Over the duration of our Phase One engagement campaign the following networking sites were engaged: Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. Facebook, in particular, also provided the opportunity to connect with people interested in particular topics and be endorsed by others engaged in the online community. Members could comment on park system survey materials or take part in polls. Many others, especially younger demographic groups, were actively involved with the social media campaign and this tool was an excellent way to reach this audience.

Social Media – Facebook



Kelowna Capital News
November 2, 2021 · 🌐

The consultation process will frame the city's Parks Master Plan



KELOWNACAPNEWS.COM

City of Kelowna seeking feedback on public parks - Kelowna Capital News

City of Kelowna We want to hear from you to help create the vision of our parks! Your feedback contributes to the first phase in our City Parks Master Plan: Our Kelowna as we play. Visit getinvolved.kelowna.ca by Dec. 5 to participate.

Social Media – Twitter



🗨️ 🔄 ❤️ 📤



City of Kelowna @cityofkelowna · Dec 1, 2021

What's the goal of our City Parks Master Plan? Create great public gathering place where people can connect with others!

Visit bit.ly/3x6NMuR by Dec. 12 to contribute to the development of a new City Parks Master Plan: Our Kelowna as we play.



🗨️ 🔄 1 ❤️ 📤