

# Report to Council



**Date:** May 29, 2017

**File:** 1840-10

**To:** City Manager

**From:** Parks and Buildings Manager

**Subject:** Bellevue Creek Linear Park - Master Plan Update

Report Prepared by: Lindsay Clement, Parks Planner

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Parks and Buildings Planning Manager dated May 29, 2017, with respect to the Bellevue Creek Linear Park Master Plan.

## **Purpose:**

To provide Council with an update on progress made in developing trail connections identified within the Bellevue Creek Linear Park Masterplan and the City of Kelowna's Official Community Plan. Also, to allow the Director of Parks Services for the Regional District of Central Okanagan to update Council on the recently adopted Woodhaven Nature Conservancy Regional Park Management Plan.

## **Background:**

Bellevue Creek, once known as Sawmill Creek, is an important natural feature running through the heart of the Okanagan Mission. The source of Bellevue Creek is Little White Mountain, approximately 14 Km southeast of the Kelowna city limits. After entering the City, the creek travels through varied topography, including a scenic canyon that gives rise to two awe-inspiring waterfalls before draining into Okanagan Lake.

Within the City, Bellevue Creek travels through both the Upper and Lower Mission neighbourhoods. The corridor length within the City is just over 6.0 Km; of this, approximately 3.4 Km is a mix of single family residential and large development parcels, and 2.6 Km is already in public ownership (i.e., City and/or Crown.)

Both sides of the Bellevue Creek Corridor were first proposed as a public route of access in the City of Kelowna's Official Community Plan of 1995, (Sections 2.8 and 9.6.8, Maps 9.1 and 15.1) and the North Mission – Crawford Sector Plan of 1997. The 2000 OCP and the current OCP list both sides of the south arm of Bellevue Creek as a public route of access. (Map 14.2 and Table 14.1.) The city-wide Linear Park

Master Plan, adopted by Council in the fall of 2009, identifies the development of the Bellevue Creek corridor as one of the top linear park priorities throughout the City.

Rapid growth continues to put increasing pressure on existing parks and trails. Sidewalks in the Lower Mission area are limited. Residents of Kelowna have consistently indicated that supplementing the existing linear park and greenway network is important. Recreational trends indicate that unstructured low cost activities, such as walking and running are becoming more popular, especially with Kelowna's aging baby boomer population, and with young families. Trails along the Bellevue Creek corridor will allow residents to participate in informal activities as they wish.

It is recognized that this project will be long-term in nature (20+ years) and consequently will need to be implemented in phases. It is also contingent upon Council and budget availability, property acquisition, and environmental approvals. Great progress is being made in furthering the development of this Greenway which includes the following highlights:

- Memorandum of understanding between Worman Commercial and the City of Kelowna for the adaptive reuse of the heritage buildings on the Surtees Property. The site is designed as heritage buildings in a park setting and the visibility of the trailhead will be a key aspect of this design;
- Adoption of the Woodhaven Nature Conservancy Regional Park Management Plan by the Central Okanagan Regional District;
- Trail development partnership with developers in The Ponds neighbourhood. This is a multi-year program to construct several public trail sections on the rim of the canyon as part of the Bellevue Creek Greenway. The partnership agreement is based upon the principle of equal cost sharing between the City and the developers;
- Upgrades at Canyon Falls Park. Budget was approved in 2016 to upgrade the trail into the ravine to allow park users to view the waterfalls safely. The upgrades include stairs and handrails to meet public safety standards; and
- Upland connections to Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park. BC Parks has identified the Kettle Valley Railway, KLO Creek (Myra Canyon), and Bellevue Creek as special features with special character, fragility and heritage values. The Bellevue Creek linear trail will tie into this existing trail network within the Park.

Due to its proximity to residential areas, Bellevue Creek Greenway has a large recreational catchment area, and will positively impact the entire community. It will provide a legacy for future generations to help protect the quality of life we experience today.

**Internal Circulation:**

Divisional Director, Infrastructure

Director Strategic Investments

Infrastructure Operations Dept. Manager

**Existing Policy:**

OCP Objective 7.13 Provide a city-wide linear park and trail network

OCP Objective 7.15 Develop park partnerships

**External Agency/Public Comments:**

Regional District of Central Okanagan

**Considerations not applicable to this report:**

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Communications Comments:

Alternate Recommendation:

Personnel Implications:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

**Submitted by:**

R. Parlane, Parks and Buildings Manager

**Approved for inclusion**



A. Newcombe, Divisional Director, Infrastructure

Attachment: Bellevue Creek Linear Park – Master Plan Update Presentation

cc: Divisional Director, Infrastructure  
Director Strategic Investments  
Community Engagement Manager  
Development Engineering Manager  
Infrastructure Operations Department Manager  
Real Estate Services Manager