

# Community for All

## Parks and Buildings Assessments

August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017

# Background

## Community for All Parks and Building Assessments

- ▶ City Parks Assessments
- ▶ City Buildings Assessments

Funded by the 2017 UBCM Age-Friendly Planning and Project Grant



Healthy City  
Strategy



# Community for All

Vision: A city that is healthy, safe, active & inclusive for seniors, children and those with diverse abilities



# Recent Successes

## Rutland Centennial



- ▶ Playground surface fully accessible by wheelchairs and strollers
- ▶ Variety of equipment suitable for those with visible or hearing disabilities

# Recent Successes

## Boyce-Gyro and Rotary Beach Wheelchairs

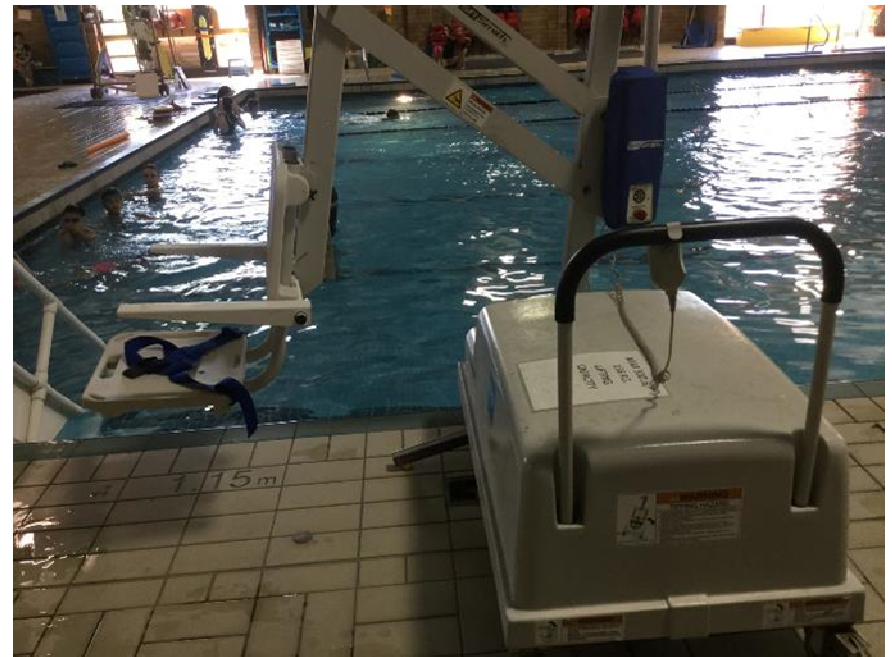


- ▶ These are designed to manoeuvre across sand and provide easy entry into the water



# Recent Successes

## Pool Lifts



- Access to pools in H2o, Parkinson Recreation Centre, Rutland YMCA

# Assessment Deliverables



Gather and compile site-specific information related to accessibility for all ages and abilities in City parks and buildings

Recommendations for improvement, including prioritization for implementation



Munson Pond Park

# Project Scope

## 157 City Parks

- ▶ City-wide parks
- ▶ Recreation parks
- ▶ Community parks
- ▶ Neighborhood parks

Plus some selected  
natural areas



Cedar Creek Park



# Project Scope

## 76 City Buildings

- ▶ City-managed public service, cultural and entertainment buildings
- ▶ Parks washrooms and fieldhouses
- ▶ Sports clubs located in city-owned buildings



Landfill Administration Building

# Project Scope

## User Groups

- ▶ Seniors
- ▶ Parents with babies and/or toddlers
- ▶ Deaf or hard of hearing
- ▶ Blind or visually impaired
- ▶ People with cognitive, memory or learning challenges
- ▶ People with a mobility challenge
- ▶ Caregivers for persons challenged in any manner



City Park: Staff/stakeholder  
park experience

# Learning from Lived Experience...







# Learning from Lived Experience...

# Assessment Structure

Based on:

- ▶ BC Building Code
- ▶ Stakeholder engagement
- ▶ City of Kelowna Guidelines for Accessibility in Outdoor Spaces
- ▶ City of Calgary Access Design Guidelines
- ▶ World Health Organization Checklist of Essential Features of Age-friendly Cities

# Parks Assessment

Parks (218 checklist items)

- ▶ Major assessment areas
  - ▶ Vehicular access
  - ▶ Paths of travel
  - ▶ Site furniture
  - ▶ Signage and way finding
  - ▶ Park amenities
  - ▶ Social connectedness



Waterfront Park



# Buildings Assessment

- ▶ Buildings (244 checklist items)

- ▶ Major Assessment Areas

- ▶ Vehicular access
    - ▶ Building entrances
    - ▶ Interior paths of travel
    - ▶ Washrooms & change rooms
    - ▶ Signage and interior features
    - ▶ Assembly areas and theatres
    - ▶ Recreational facilities
    - ▶ Social connectedness



Parkinson Activity Center

# Assessment Findings



Rotary Centre for the Arts

# Highlights

## Playgrounds in parks

- ▶ 51% of parks have playgrounds
- ▶ Observed public usage was high



Naito Park



# Highlights

## Transit coverage

- ▶ Roughly 70% of city parks and 82% of public buildings assessed have a transit stop located within 500 metres



Transit near Mission Recreation Park

# Highlights



Clean, well maintained, and welcoming parks

- ▶ The majority of city parks have environments which encourage social interactions



Barlee Park

# Highlights



## Automatic door openers

- ▶ 80% of major city public buildings offer automatic door openers



Parkinson Recreation Center



# Highlights

## Elevators and vertical transportation

- ▶ 100% of elevators in city managed buildings are accessible and up to building code
- ▶ 80% of multiple storey buildings have elevators or accessible elevating devices



Parkinson Activity Center

# Highlights

## Recreational facilities and exercise areas

- ▶ 100% of public pools are provided with lifts
- ▶ 100% of public gyms have accessible exercise equipment



Parkinson Recreation Center



H2O

# Areas for improvement

## Playground accessibility

- ▶ 20% of City playgrounds in city-wide, community, and recreational parks provide accessible surfaces and/or equipment



Mission Recreation Park



# Areas for improvement

## Passenger loading zones

- ▶ 20% of public buildings and about 4% of parks have marked passenger loading zones



Capital News Center

# Areas for improvement

## Pathways to amenities

- ▶ 50% of City parks do not have pathways to site furniture



City Park

# Areas for improvement

## Assistive listening systems

- ▶ 7% of City buildings used for public speaking or performance provide assistive listening systems



Kelowna Library



# Areas for improvement

## Recreational facilities

- ▶ Provision for sledge hockey could be considered



Memorial Arena



Rutland Arena

# Areas for improvement

## Signage and wayfinding

- ▶ 10% of City public buildings have some sort of tactile signage



Rutland Family YMCA

# Next Steps ...



Sutton Glen Community Gardens



## Next Steps...

Share data and promote assessments  
with other Community for All partners

- ▶ People in Motion
- ▶ Interior Health
- ▶ University of British Columbia (Okanagan)
- ▶ Okanagan College

# Next Steps...

## Rick Hansen Foundation collaboration

- ▶ Accessibility Certification Program
- ▶ 7 parks, 7 buildings



# Next Steps...

Feedback from the different user groups

Use the collected data to prioritize improvements to existing infrastructure

Use the acquired knowledge to inform the design of new capital projects





*Questions?*

For more information, visit [kelowna.ca](http://kelowna.ca).