

# OASIS OF ACTIVITY: CITY OF KAMLOOPS PARKS MASTER PLAN

JANUARY 2013



Our corporate mission is...  
**MAKING KAMLOOPS SHINE**



This page is intentionally blank to  
support double-sided printing

# CONTENTS

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

i

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

1

1.1 Context.....	1
1.2 Project Purpose and Objectives .....	2
1.3 Planning Process and Methods.....	5
1.4 Relevant City Documents and Initiatives.....	6
1.5 Format of Recommendations .....	12

### 2.0 THE PEOPLE AND THEIR INTERESTS

13

2.1 Demographics.....	13
2.2 Trends and Best Practices .....	15
2.3 Web Survey .....	15
2.4 Focus Group Workshops .....	23

### 3.0 VISION FOR THE FUTURE

27

3.1 Vision .....	27
3.2 Goals and Objectives .....	28
3.3 Benefits.....	30

### 4.0 PARKLAND

33

4.1 Parks Classification .....	33
4.2 Parkland Supply .....	36

### 5.0 OUTDOOR RECREATION

45

5.1 Park Planning Process.....	45
5.2 Park Design.....	46
5.3 Trails .....	49
5.4 Waterfront Activities .....	50
5.5 Sports Facilities .....	51
5.6 Play and Exercise Areas .....	53
5.7 Youth Facilities.....	55
5.8 Dog Activities .....	58
5.9 Urban Agriculture .....	60
5.10 Winter Activities .....	62
5.11 Other Park Amenities .....	63

### 6.0 PARK MANAGEMENT

65

6.1 Parks Operations and Sustainability.....	65
6.2 Management of Natural Areas.....	67
6.3 Management of Urban Forests.....	69
6.4 Managing Use of Park Lands.....	71

<b>7.0 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN</b>	<b>75</b>
7.1 Financial and Phasing Plan .....	75
7.2 Financial Strategies.....	80
7.3 Criteria for Decision-Making.....	82
7.4 Staff Capacity .....	82
7.5 Stewardship and Community Involvement .....	83
7.6 Measurable Benchmarks and Reporting on Outcomes.....	84
<b>APPENDIX A: SUPPLEMENTARY WEB SURVEY RESPONSES</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>APPENDIX B: SUPPLEMENTARY FOCUS GROUP RESPONSES</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>APPENDIX C: POTENTIAL PARK ENHANCEMENTS</b>	<b>94</b>

## MAPS

*Map 1: Existing and Proposed Parks*

*Map 2: Spatial Analysis of Parks*

*Map 3: Spatial Analysis of Playgrounds / Water Parks and Wading Pools*

*Map 4: Spatial Analysis of Dog Off-Leash Areas*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### City Staff Steering Committee

Michael Doll, Parks Planning Supervisor, Parks Master Plan Project Manager

Byron McCorkell, Director, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

Jeff Putnam, Parks, Recreation Facilities and Business Operations Manager

Shawn Cook, Parks Operations Supervisor

Nick De Cicco, Parks Planning and Project Supervisor

Eric Beach, Planning and Development Supervisor

Barbara Berger, Recreation, Social Development, and Culture Manager

### Consultants

#### **Catherine Berris Associates Inc.**

Catherine Berris, Project Leader

Bill Gushue, GIS

Heather Breiddal, Graphic Layout

We would like to thank members of the Parks and Recreation Committee, Parent Advisory Committees, sports user groups, Community Associations, environmental and naturalist groups, trail user groups, youth, City staff from all departments, Mayor and Council, and the many members of the community who provided input to this plan.

All of the quotes in the margins of this plan are from the public, unless stated otherwise.







## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### *Project Context, Purpose and Process*

The City of Kamloops has built up an exceptional parks system in keeping with the department's vision. The City's last plan for parks was a 2003 Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Parks and Recreation Services with Ekistics). Because of significant changes since that time, staff decided that a new plan was needed.

The purpose of this project was to prepare a 10 year Parks Master Plan for the City that will provide a framework for decisions related to parkland, park development, outdoor recreation, and park management to ensure that goals are being achieved.

The planning process involved extensive consultation with the community in an effort to ensure that the plan reflects the goals and aspirations of a wide range of residents. Consultation methods included a web survey, focus group workshops, a public workshop, a public open house, and other meetings and communication.

*"I am so pleased with the amount of green space within the City and the vision of Council to preserve as much as possible. Once it's gone, we can never get it back!"*



There are numerous City documents which provide context for the Parks Master Plan. The most relevant of these are KAMPLAN 2004: The Official Community Plan, the Corporate Strategic Plan, and Sustainable Kamloops Plan: Foundations for Sustainability. A Trails Master Plan, prepared concurrently with the Parks Master Plan, has strong interrelationships with the Parks Master Plan.

### ***The People and Their Interests***



The population of Kamloops was 86,678 in 2011, based on the 2011 census, with average growth rates between 1% and 1.5% annually. The population in 2021, the time frame of this Plan, is projected to be 98,078 based on an average growth rate of 1.25%.

A number of trends are addressed in the Master Plan. These include: steady population growth, an aging population, a high population in the south-west portion of city, alternative transportation as a major interest, dog management interests and challenges, a high level of interest in urban agriculture, the importance of areas for youth and mountain biking, and challenges maintaining the same proportion of parkland as portions of the City get more dense.

A web survey with 234 respondents showed that there is extremely high participation in many activities and very high visitation to parks. The highest satisfaction among respondents is with accessibility of parks, paths and trails. The highest dissatisfaction relates to bike riding safety, and information on parks and trails. The priorities for improvement in order of importance are more paths and trails, more parkland, and upgrading of parks.

According to participants at focus groups, the strengths of parks in Kamloops are the diverse and well distributed parkland, variety of activities, and high standard of maintenance. The key challenges are safety and security, lack of connectivity, not enough trails, and maintenance concerns.

### ***Vision, Goals and Benefits***

The vision statement for the Parks Master Plan reads as follows. It is written in the present tense since it describes how it is hoped the City's parks will be depicted in the future:

***The parks in Kamloops are diverse and sustainable, reflecting the unique natural characteristics of the City's environment; rivers, silt cliffs, wetlands, forests and grasslands. The parks are well distributed, interconnected, inclusive, and accessible, promoting healthy active living to residents and visitors. The community is engaged in social gatherings, planning and stewardship, helping to enrich quality of life through park-related opportunities.***





The following is a summary of the goals of the Master Plan:

1. Protect and enhance the quality, integrity and sustainability of the environment through parks.
2. Provide a connected trail system that links parks, schools and key destinations.
3. Provide opportunities for social gatherings and community engagement through parks.
4. Consider arts, culture, and education in park planning and design.
5. Encourage as many people as possible to participate in activities within parks.
6. Work with others as needed to achieve the parks vision.

Parks and the activities that they support provide many benefits to communities. These include social, environmental and economic benefits.

### ***Recommendations***

The analysis indicates that Kamloops has a very successful parks system which requires fine tuning to address trends and population growth. The following is a summary of the key recommendations:

#### **Parks Classification and Parkland Supply**

Integrate the new parkland classification system, review the zoning of parks, acquire parkland in developing and developed areas based on standards and criteria, and increase the maintenance budget with parkland acquisition and park development.

#### **Park Planning Process**

Involve the surrounding community in parks planning and design processes, and support stakeholder groups in building up their own capacity.

#### **Park Design**

Plan and design parks to address a wide range of community interests, prepare Park Master Plans and Management Plans, and develop, upgrade and enhance parks as needed.

#### **Trails**

Coordinate new trail corridor acquisition and trail development in parks with the Trails Master Plan, connect parks to the pedestrian/bike networks, work with other land owners on trail corridors and access points, and maintain trails to support the level of use.

#### **Waterfront Activities**

Explore options for increasing parking capacity at or near the boat launch in Pioneer Park, additional boat launch locations, and more beach opportunities.





### **Sports Facilities**

Partner with the School District to maximize community benefits and use of school sports fields and school grounds, work on schedules to maximize the use of sports fields, and work with neighbourhoods to maximize the uses and benefits of courts.

### **Play and Exercise Areas**

Work with communities and neighbourhoods to determine their specific interests in play and outdoor exercise amenities, build more water parks, renew and improve play areas, and partner with the School District to upgrade their play areas in neighbourhoods lacking in City-owned park space.

### **Youth Facilities**

Work with youth on all planning and design related to youth parks, develop a major skateboard facility south of the river, build more neighbourhood-level bike skills and / or skateboard areas, and work with longboarders to explore this activity considering safety and liability concerns.

### **Dog Activities**

Improve the character and amenities of dog off-leash areas in the City Centre, provide exercise areas for dogs in some neighbourhoods, explore opportunities for trails that are designated for certain uses in the major nature parks, and strongly consider allowing dogs on leash along the portion of Rivers Trails through McArthur Island Park.

### **Urban Agriculture**

Support the development of at least two permanent edible organic demonstration/public produce gardens in areas that are well used and highly visible to the public, identify a location for a community garden in the City Centre, and work with the Kamloops Food Policy Council on installing some vegetables, fruits and herbs in city-wide and community parks.

### **Winter Activities**

Explore opportunities for more winter uses at Riverside Park, develop at least two parks to support sledding (north and south of the river), and include opportunities for cross-country skiing and skating in Aberdeen.

### **Other Park Amenities**

Add and upgrade washrooms, develop more covered picnic shelters, integrate and upgrade signs, and plant more trees in City-wide and community parks.





## **Park Operations and Sustainability**

Prepare a system that lists and cross-references the City's standards and best practices, and increase maintenance of riverfront areas, paths and trails.

### **Management of Natural Areas**

Conduct environmental studies for existing and potential parks, review the impacts of off-leash dogs and bikes in nature parks, place a high priority on sustainability and ecological integrity in managing parks, and expand environmental and cultural interpretive programs.

### **Management of Urban Forests**

Preserve existing trees in new developments, work with Planning on ways to increase the requirements for tree planting and tree replacement in new development, review and update the Urban Forest Management Plan, and consolidate and enhance the portions of existing bylaws that relate to trees.

### **Managing Use of Park Land**

Establish a policy regarding commercial uses in parks, adopt criteria to be applied when special interest groups request permission to use park lands, publish a clear and comprehensive map of all parks and trails, and use social media for way-finding and special events.

## ***Implementation***

The implementation section of the Parks Master Plan identifies the priority, phasing and relative cost of the recommendations, as well as financing strategies and decision-making criteria.

The City is extremely well staffed due to the Tournament Capital Program. Responsibilities are clear, and the City is commended by the community for its response to public requests and concerns. Members of the community are also very involved in volunteer work that contributes to parks and their use. The volunteers make tremendous contributions to the City in terms of supporting a sense of community and healthy lifestyles, and protecting environmental values.

A Master Plan needs to be evaluated regularly to determine if its objectives and recommendations are being achieved. Three tools used by the City, the community survey, annual reports, and tracking of public comments, are considered sufficient for measuring the implementation of the PMP. It will be important to integrate the recommendations of the PMP into these respective tools.



This page is intentionally blank to  
support double-sided printing



## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Context

The City of Kamloops has built up an exceptional parks system in keeping with the vision of the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department:

*Our Vision*

***To provide the opportunity for an outstanding quality of life.***

***Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services are proud to provide a variety of services, programs, and facilities to expand your recreation and leisure opportunities.***

***Our Recreation Commission and the Parks and Recreation Services work closely together to ensure that our citizens and visitors receive the highest level of quality recreation, leisure, arts, culture, and sports services.***

***Each year we make improvements that are consistent with City Council's mission and guiding principles by providing these services in the most efficient and effective way possible.***

Source: City of Kamloops Website

***"I'm very satisfied with the parks that we have in Kamloops...probably some of the best in Canada!"***







The department’s achievements and dedication to the vision are confirmed by responses to the City’s Citizen Survey (Ipsos Reid, 2009). “Residents continue to express a high level of satisfaction when it comes to their quality of life, the services that are provided by the City, and their impressions of City staff. Given the positive tone expressed by many residents, it comes as no surprise that most plan to stay in the City. When it comes to the delivery of services, the City of Kamloops has four primary strengths according to the survey results. The primary strengths are: overall aesthetic appearance of the City, programs and services for recreation and sport, availability of green spaces for recreation and enjoyment, recycling collection services.” It is highly impressive that three out of the four primary strengths relate to the work of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department.

The City’s last plan for parks was a 2003 Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Parks and Recreation Services with Ekistics). That plan, which identifies trends, a vision and goals, principles and actions on a number of parks and recreation topics, has outlived its utility. There have been some significant shifts in trends related to parks and outdoor recreation since 2003, many of the recommendations of the 2003 plan have been completed, and the City has undertaken a variety of new initiatives which inter-relate with parks. These include, but are not limited to the KamPlan Official Community Plan, Kamloops Social Plan, Pedestrian and Trails Master Plan, Bicycle Master Plan, Corporate Strategic Plan, Park Plans, and Recreation Facility Plans.

The Department has decided to prepare a new Parks Master Plan to help guide and manage the City’s parks over the next ten years. A separate plan for Recreation and Culture will be undertaken in the near future.

## ***1.2 Project Purpose and Objectives***

### **Project Purpose**

The purpose of this project was to prepare a 10 year Parks Master Plan for the City that will provide a framework for decisions related to parkland, park development, outdoor recreation, and park management to ensure that goals and visions are being achieved.

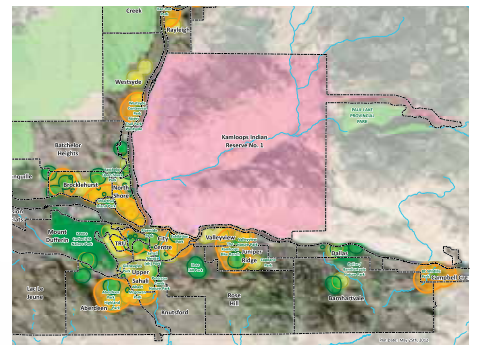


## Project Objectives

The following is a list of project objectives (distinct from Master Plan objectives which are in section 3.2), as identified in the project Terms of Reference:

- Review background information to obtain a complete understanding of the planning context,
- Conduct a comprehensive analysis of the current inventory of parks, trails, outdoor recreation facilities, programs, and services to identify successes, gaps and future demands.
- Prepare guiding statements for parks for 2021, including a vision, goals and objectives.
- Use a varied and innovative approach to consultation and analysis that is reflective and representative of the population while being statistically valid, reliable, and defensible. Include input from numerous sources including community associations, user groups, City staff, City Council, relevant committees, and the general public to ensure comprehensive input into the plan.
- Identify the benefits to be achieved through the Parks Master Plan, including but not limited to: social engagement, community vitality, healthy individuals and effects on the health care system, healthy environment, venues for lifelong learning, and cultural expression through heritage, multiculturalism, arts, and creativity.
- Explore and incorporate innovative trends, policies and examples of best practices in the delivery of park programming and servicing, to retain Kamloops as a leader in the delivery of parks services.
- Ensure that the plan supports and integrates well with the policies and recommendations of recently completed and ongoing City plans and initiatives.
- Provide an integrated, dynamic and user-friendly Parks Master Plan with a clear strategic direction; parks system framework; and recommendations and policies that will address needs, accomplish the vision, and result in benefits. The plan will include the following components, in addition to some of the other information listed separately in this section:
  - review of existing and projected demographics so the plan reflects future economic, socio-cultural and other demographic conditions
  - analysis of supply and demand for parkland, including park quality, deficiencies, and challenges, with proposed parkland

*“Thanks to the City of Kamloops staff for all their efforts to move forward with hopefully a much expanded parks plan!”*





acquisition standards over the term of the plan in order to support development cost charges (DCCs) and to provide direction for development

- recommendations on the location and timing of new and upgraded parks, open space, playing fields, amenity facilities, and trails
- analysis of maintenance levels and operation services and, if necessary, recommendations for revisions and adjustments, particularly in relation to sustainability
- a framework and strategy to address key issues affecting parks including: management of natural areas, dogs, urban forest management, conflicting uses, social challenges, and any others that are identified through the consultation process
- park standards and guidelines to improve the delivery of park services, including comparison with other municipalities to provide context, and standards for park furniture and materials that can be used as a reference guide for the development community and all City Departments
- Prepare an implementation plan that identifies:
  - ways the department can lead or support corporate programs and objectives such as environmental building standards, Integrated Pest Management, water conservation, forest and wildfire management, and sustainability
  - recommendations related to other initiatives within the City context including: bylaw review, long term planning direction, and process reviews
  - clarification of the roles of staff within the department to reduce unnecessary duplication of programs and services and to streamline the operation
  - financial strategies that can be used to bridge the gap between future demand and allocated capital and tax funding, potentially including: alternative financing options, fee and charges policy, modification of the City’s long term financial plan to optimize achievement of the objectives outlined in the Master Plan, a phased cost analysis for the proposed improvements to the park system, along with a resource allocation strategy and corresponding work schedule
  - measurable benchmarks coordinated with the overall strategic business planning processes of the City, including a method for reporting on outcomes and attainment of targets on a yearly basis which will form the framework for the Parks Department’s annual report





### 1.3 Planning Process and Methods

The planning process involved extensive consultation with the community in an effort to ensure that the plan would reflect the goals and aspirations of a wide range of residents. Opportunities were provided for those who wish to participate from home or electronically, as well those who prefer to attend meetings. The communication and consultation process involved the following key components:

- **Web Survey** – this was conducted using Survey Monkey. The survey sought input on outdoor recreation participation, park visitation, barriers, satisfaction, importance of potential improvements, and ways to raise funds (see section 2.3).
- **Focus Group Workshops** - on February 23 and 24, 2011, five visioning workshops were held with different groups regarding the Parks Master Plan. The purpose of these workshops was to inform participants about the planning process, and to request their perceptions about parks and open space in Kamloops, their ideas for the vision of the Plan, and strategies and recommendations they would like the Plan to include (see section 2.4).
- **Public Workshop** - on February 24, 2011, a focus group workshop was held with the public using the same format as the focus group workshops above (see section 2.4).
- **First Nations** – the Tk'emlúps Indian Band was informed of the plan by telephone and email, and draft versions of the plan were sent for comment.
- **Presentation to Parks and Recreation Committee** – on December 7, 2011, the first draft of the Master Plan recommendations was presented to the Committee.
- **Public Open House** – a public session open house on February 2, 2012 was held to present and obtain comments on the draft Parks Master Plan.
- **Communications** - a broad net of communications was used, striving to ensure that all interested residents were aware of this project. All project materials available at the public meetings were posted on the City's Web site. An email notification list of all groups and public interested in the project was maintained and used by the City for meeting announcements. Posters, ads, and press releases were prepared during each phase of public consultation. Letters and emails from the public were welcomed at any time. The web survey was advertised in both local papers (The Kamloops Daily News and Kamloops This Week), and Parks staff conducted a radio interview for Radio NL 610, all of which directed residents to the City of Kamloops website.



*“Please keep and increase green spaces in and near the city, it creates a great community and offers wonderful tourist attractions.”*



## **1.4 Relevant City Documents and Initiatives**

There are numerous City documents which provide context for the Parks Master Plan, the most relevant of which are described in this section.

### **Long Range Plans**

#### ***KAMPLAN 2004: The Official Community Plan***

KAMPLAN 2004 was prepared through an extensive process of community consultation. It is based on a community vision as follows:

Kamloops will continue to provide the best quality of life for all residents by:

- building strong and diverse neighbourhoods
- providing a variety of housing types
- encouraging healthy and active lifestyles
- supporting cultural and athletic pursuits
- diversifying economic and educational opportunities
- maintaining sustainable environmental stewardship

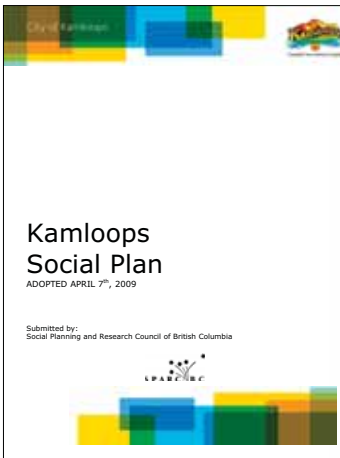
The following plans are components of KAMPLAN 2004.

#### ***Kamloops Social Plan***

The goal of the Social Plan (Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia, 2009) is to enhance the well-being of Kamloops residents. While the City does not have the mandate or capacity to function as a front-line social service delivery agency, it does have an opportunity to engage with the community and community agencies to identify community needs and help ensure that the needs of community members are met. The plan identifies gaps in services and resources, and the community action necessary to address those gaps for the following main themes: Housing and Homelessness; Safe places, alternative transportation and environmental health; Youth Issues; Aboriginal Community; Building Social Agencies & Community Capacity; Children and Families; Health and Addictions.

#### ***Sustainable Kamloops Plan: Foundations for Sustainability***

This plan, prepared in 2010 with extensive consultation, contains the following key sustainability components: Transportation; Solid Waste; Energy; Recreation; Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Natural Environment; Climate Change Adaptation; Food Security; Land; Arts, Culture and Heritage; Air; Health and Wellness; Water Use Efficiency; Community Safety; Drinking Water Quality; Economic Development; Stormwater; Education; and Wastewater. For each component, there is background



information, a description of success, measures of success, and strategies for achieving success. A companion document entitled 'Sustainable Kamloops Plan - Summary of Information Packages' provides more details on each component.

The following are some of the measures of success that are relevant to the Parks Master Plan:

Recreation:

- Increasing the availability of active transportation facilities including walkways, trails and related facilities used by pedestrians, cyclists, hikers and other active users
- Hosting 200 tournaments per year by 2020, including 5 national level tournaments, as part of the Tournament Capital Program
- Designating 15 to 20 ha of park space per 1000 people in Kamloops. This ratio will include all types of park space (active, passive, open space and so forth)

Food Security:

- Increasing the amount of land available for gardening
- Achieving 4 to 5 community garden plots per 1000 residents

Land:

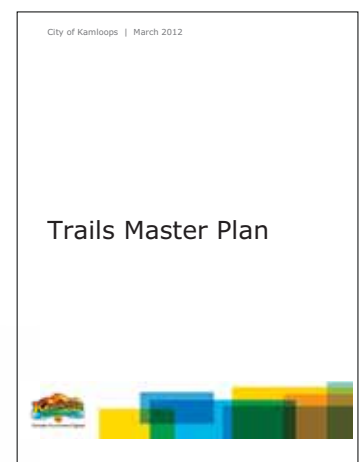
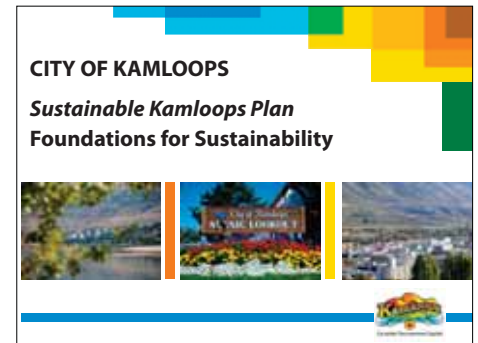
- Increasing the area contained in community gardens in Kamloops by 100% by 2020

**Cultural Strategic Plan**

This plan, which lays out a blueprint for cultural development for Kamloops for the next decade, includes five key strategies and 73 actions and recommendations (Janzen and Associates, 2003). Many of the recommendations focus on making arts, culture and heritage more prominent within the community. A good number of the recommendations have been implemented, e.g., public art program, an Arts and Heritage District, collaborating with First Nations, heritage signs, summer arts festivals.

**Trails Master Plan**

The vision of the Trails Master Plan is to develop an extensive, sensitive trail network throughout Kamloops with recreation opportunities for all user types. The plan includes guiding principles and trail classification standards that align with provincial guidelines. Standards and costs are provided for trail access and staging points and other amenities. Maps illustrate existing and proposed trails and staging points for each community. An evaluation framework is used to identify trail priorities, and an implementation plan identifies costs, funding sources and next steps.







***Bicycle Master Plan***

This plan, which was completed in 2010 (Urban Systems), has two overarching goals: to increase bicycle trips of all types and to improve safety for cyclists. The plan includes a vision and guiding principles, and a toolkit outlining network design principles, different types of cycling facilities (including support facilities), and support programs. A proposed bicycle network was created by identifying key network connections, determining where facilities could be located on-street or off-street, and evaluating links to determine their implementation priority. The proposed bicycle network includes approximately 60 projects which will take several years to implement, and an evaluation framework for determining priorities.



***Tranquille on the Lake Neighbourhood Plan***

The Tranquille on the Lake (TOL) property is a 190 ha/470 acre site located on the north shoreline of Kamloops Lake at the western edge of the City of Kamloops. The owners are proposing that the property be developed as an agri-community that combines an urban farm with a mixed use village community and a marina, with an overall density ranging from 9 to 13 units per acre / 22 to 32 units per hectare. The TOL Neighbourhood Plan presents the conceptual development proposal, which includes a City-wide park on Kamloops Lake with a boat launch and day use park, and starting / end point for Rivers Trail.

***Regional Growth Strategy***

Beginning in 1995, the City participated with the TNRD and other government agencies in the development of a Regional Growth Strategy, which was adopted by the Board of the Thompson-Nicola Regional District as By-law 1767 in May of 2000.

**Administrative Plans**

***Council Strategic Plan***

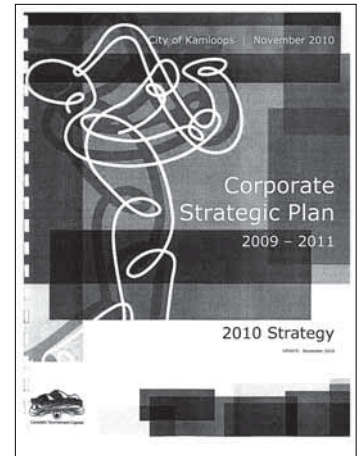
These plans are prepared by Council every three years. In 2009, the Council Strategic Plan was adopted for the period 2009 to 2011. The plan includes goals and objectives for: infrastructure, economy, environment, livability and good government. One of the objectives is to update the Parks Master Plan. The Strategic Plan also notes achievements from previous years, many of which relate to the Tournament Capital Program.



### ***Corporate Strategic Plan***

Updated in 2011 for the period 2009 to 2011, this plan, which is also completed every three years, identifies the City's mission and guiding principles, and updated goals and objectives for: infrastructure, economy, environment, livability and good government. Some of the achievements include:

- Strengthening the relationship with School District #73 to raise playing fields to tournament capital standard
- Communities in Bloom National Contest and Winter Lights competition
- Public tree planting program
- Identified new community garden locations
- Trail and walkway signage plan underway
- Walkway / trail planning resource brochure - once the Trail Master Plan is approved, new trail brochures will be prepared
- Building capacity for new and existing neighbourhood associations
- Completed plans for Food Sustainability including edible landscapes and community gardens
- Completed Phase 3 of McDonald Park Master Plan (Neighbourhood Pilot Project), which was the water park
- Built and promoted new seniors playground at McArthur Island
- Station Plaza Beautification completed
- Brochure for FREE recreation activities
- Emphasizing more public safety in the design of City infrastructure



### ***Kamloops Five Year Plan***

This is a capital plan for all City expenditures (Parks items are on pages 32 to 36).

### **Other City Plans and Initiatives**

#### ***Heritage Register***

The City of Kamloops, through Council resolution, adopted the first ever Heritage Register for Kamloops in 2007. The Register is currently comprised of 20 heritage resources, and it is anticipated that additional entries to the Register will be added on a regular basis. The Heritage Register includes a combination of residential and civic buildings, commercial properties, cemeteries, train stock and community monuments. Each entry onto the Register has had its heritage value identified through the use of a Statement of Significance (SOS).

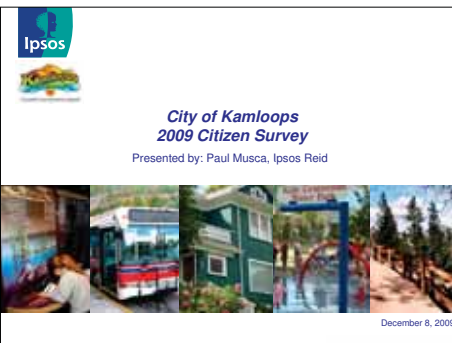




***Best Practices in Urban Agriculture: A Background Report Prepared for the City of Kamloops to support development of an Urban Agricultural Strategy***

In the spring of 2006, the Kamloops Food Policy Council, in partnership with the City of Kamloops and the Interior Health Authority, developed a Food Action Plan for the Kamloops area. The Best Practices document was a follow-up to that plan, coordinated by the Kamloops Food Policy Council, with grants from the Province of British Columbia (True Consulting Group, 2007). The document defines urban agriculture and its benefits, and provides an overview of Canadian Best Practices in Urban Agriculture, a summary of Best Practices, and a set of recommendations for the City of Kamloops. Municipal strategies to support urban agriculture in the City of Kamloops are presented in the following areas:

- community gardens
- landscaping for urban food
- establishing a strong policy framework
- support for urban agriculture



***City of Kamloops 2009 Citizen Survey***

In this telephone survey of 400 City of Kamloops residents (Ipsos Reid), quality of life was rated as very good or good by 96% of residents. Section 1.1 lists some other key relevant results.

***Kamloops Cemeteries 10 Year Strategic Plan 2004 – 2013***

All cemeteries in Kamloops, except for aboriginal burial grounds, are owned and managed by the City. There are five cemeteries, two of which are active; Hillside Cemetery and Pleasant Street Cemetery. Hillside Cemetery, the largest and newest, has enough developable land to satisfy projected demand up to 2050. There is a significant opportunity for the cemetery to offer columbaria, memorial spaces (e.g., gardens, forests), and other alternative features.

***Joint Use and Shared Facility Protocol Agreement***

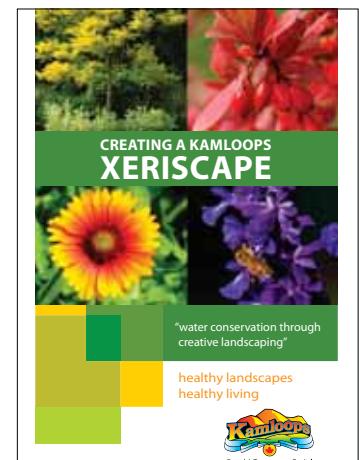
This agreement between the City of Kamloops and School District #73, dated 2008, outlines the values, fees and charges, revenue sharing, and other responsibilities related to managing City and School resources for the benefit of the community.

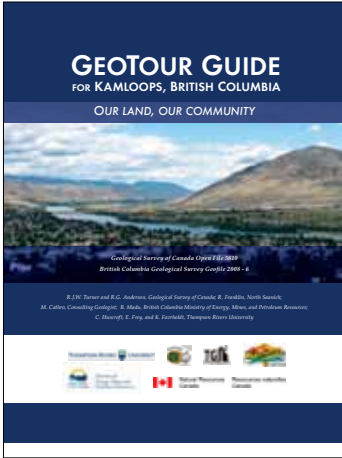


## Brochures

Kamloops has a series of brochures that provide information to the public, including:

- **Bicycle Paths** – information and maps showing on-street and off-street bicycle paths
- **Heritage Walking Tour** – prepared with the Kamloops Museum and Archives, the brochure provides information on buildings and sites in the downtown area
- **Memorial Bench and Tree Program** – information about the program and an application form
- **Kenna Cartwright Nature Park** – park map showing trails, information on the park’s resources and park etiquette, park user survey
- **Dog Friendly Parks and Off-Limit Areas** – map and list of on-leash parks, off-leash parks, off-leash beaches, off-limits areas, and dog owner responsibilities
- **Rivers Trail** – trail map, information on the trail’s resources and trail etiquette
- **Plant Health Care** – information on integrated pest management, healthy soil, plant hardiness zones, plant selection, and care of trees, shrubs and lawns
- **Creating a Kamloops Xeriscape** – “how to” guide with a plant list of appropriate species
- **Pesticide Use Control Bylaw No. 26-2** – explanation of the bylaw and City practices
- **Kamloops Community Forest** – description of the forest, “a Communities in Bloom Legacy Project”, and how to become a donor
- **Kamloops Tree Guide** – information on trees in the City, tree selection, planting trees, and the benefits of trees
- **Canada’s Tournament Capital Facilities Guide** – information on the program, the facilities and sports supported





### **GeoTour Guide**

This guide prepared by the Geological Survey of Canada and numerous other partners in 2008, includes information and graphics about 15 points of geological interest in Kamloops.

### **1.5 Format of Recommendations**

Recommendations are provided in sections 4.0, 5.0 and 6.0 of this Master Plan. In order to correlate recommendations with implementation, the recommendations are listed under the following headings:

- Planning
- Capital Development
- Operations and Management

Many of the recommendations are ongoing tasks already undertaken by the City, but they are listed in the Master Plan to give them emphasis due to community interests. Because the City is already pursuing actions that comply with many of these recommendations, “continue to” is not included at the front of any of the recommendations. It is understood that many of these action items are already in process.





## 2.0 THE PEOPLE AND THEIR INTERESTS

### 2.1 Demographics

The population of Kamloops was 86,678 in 2011, based on the 2011 census, with average growth rates between 1% and 1.5% annually. The population in 2021, the time frame of this Plan, is projected to be 98,078 based on an average growth rate of 1.25%. This number could be as low as around 95,000 if the growth rate is closer to 1%, or as high as 100,000 with 1.5% annual growth.

Demographics were analyzed for the Sustainable Kamloops Plan Land Background Document using census data for 5 year intervals between 1981 and 2006 and two closely related trends were noted:

- The proportion of the population under the age of 45 is dwindling. In 1981, this group made up 76% of Kamloops' population; in 2006 it was 57%;
- The proportion of the population over the age of 45 is growing. In 1981, this group made up 25% of the community's population; in 2006 it was 43%.

*"When my wife and I chose Kamloops for our retirement 6 years ago, the enlightened attitude of the City towards preserving parks and creating attractive, green, recreational spaces was near the top of our criteria list."*



The population growth is consistent within the region. According to BC Stats, the population in the TNRD is expected to grow to 163,642 by 2036. The population projection for the local health area (Kamloops) is 142,158 by 2036.

KAMPLAN illustrates the distribution of Kamloops' population when it is around 100,000. It will be as follows: 19% in the core, 36% in the southwest, 21% in the northwest, 17% in the northeast, and 7% in the southeast. Growth on the Tk'emlúps Indian Band lands (northeast) may also be a consideration. Once the population reaches 120,000, it is projected that 48% of the City's population will be located in the southwest portion of the City.

A Statistical Report prepared by the City in 2008 provides additional insight into the characteristic of the population based on the 2006 census. Brocklehurst was the most populous neighbourhood, followed by Upper Sahali, Aberdeen/Versatile, Westsyde (total), and North Shore. The average population per dwelling ranged from 1.62 downtown to 3.03 in Juniper. About 64% of the population lived in single detached homes. In addition to the trend towards an aging population, there appeared to be relatively low numbers of people between the ages of 24 and 40 in relation to a more typical population curve.

Kamloops had slightly fewer married couple families than the Province (69% vs. 73%), and slightly more of all of the other family types, except male lone parent families which reflected the Province's numbers. English was the mother tongue of 90% of the population, with no single other language being spoken by more than 1.5% (except 1.6% for German). There were 5,090 residents of some type of Aboriginal descent. Most of the population travelled to work in vehicles. In Kamloops, 73% of residents owned their homes, compared to 70% for the Province. The most dwellings were built between 1971 and 1980.



The Kamloops Indian Reserve No. 1 is located north and east of portions of the City, across the Kamloops East "Red Bridge" from the City Centre. The Tk'emlúps Indian Band (TIB) has approximately 1,000 Band members. The City and the TIB have a good working relationship. The TIB is consulted on all major City projects. In terms of parks planning, they were involved in the provision of art at Spirit Square, coordination related to the Tournament Capital Ranch, and wildfire protection. The rugby club is currently located on the Reserve, but the plan is for them to relocate to the Tournament Capital Ranch for 2012.



## 2.2 Trends and Best Practices

This is a high level overview of major trends related to park planning and design; more specifics are within the respective sections of the PMP:

- alternative transportation – pedestrian and bicycle routes through communities – walking is the top activity in every community surveyed in terms of participation and interest, major increase in road biking
- major increases in pet population and services provided by municipalities to accommodate dogs, particularly dog off-leash areas
- major increase in interest in urban agriculture for reasons of climate change, food security, 100 mile diet, etc. – urban agriculture is viewed as more than community gardens (see section 5.9) – edible landscapes, demonstration sites, etc.
- expansion of services provided for youth, including multi-purpose spaces with seating and gathering areas
- longboarding as a new activity (see section 5.7)
- artificial turf fields
- increasing interest in mountain biking, all types, and development of opportunities for mountain biking that are recognized by municipalities
- challenges retaining the same population-based standards in parkland supply as urban areas become more dense, municipalities are focusing more on the quality and use of parkland where quantitative standards of supply have been reduced



## 2.3 Web Survey

A Web survey was implemented to provide data for the Parks Master Plan. The survey was posted on the City of Kamloops Website for approximately 8 weeks in March and April, 2011. City Parks staff sent an invitation to participate in the survey to all interest groups who were invited and to all who attended focus groups. The survey was also advertised in both local papers, The Kamloops Daily News and Kamloops This Week, and it was announced in a radio interview on Radio NL 610. The survey had 234 respondents. The following is a summary of the key survey responses. For additional responses, see Appendix A.



*“Please ensure that the public is fully aware of where greenspaces are and how as individuals we can take care of them.”*

Because this was a Web survey, the respondents do not accurately reflect the age groups of the City’s population. Those under 29 and over 70 are significantly under-represented, while those between 30 and 69 are over-represented, with the highest over-representation in the 30 to 39 year age group. Because of this skew and the fact that the sample was not randomly selected, the responses cannot be viewed as an accurate representation of the entire population. That being said, the results provide helpful information on participation by “participants”, and useful qualitative data on barriers, satisfaction, importance, and priorities for improvement. The analysis by area of the City and the written comments also provide information on areas perceived to be most in need of certain improvements.

**1. In the last 12 months, please indicate your participation in the following outdoor recreation activities.**

Responses are provided for the most frequent levels of participation as well as total participation (anyone participating at least once within the past year).

Recreation Activity	5 times a week or more	1-4 times a week	Participation Total
Running, jogging, or walking	41%	42%	99%
Nature appreciation/ wildlife viewing	21%	41%	97%
Going to the beach	5%	20%	95%
Hiking	10%	32%	92%
Picnicking	0%	8%	84%
Water activities in the City, e.g., swimming, kayaking, fishing	5%	20%	83%
Visiting a playground	7%	24%	71%
Winter sports in the City, e.g., skating, cross-country skiing	3%	17%	70%
Cycling	8%	21%	67%
Dog walking	31%	13%	61%
Mountain biking	2%	20%	56%
Field Sports, e.g., soccer, football, baseball	3%	16%	51%
Volunteering for sports	4%	9%	43%
Tennis	0%	5%	36%
Use of community gardens	1%	5%	37%
Involvement in park stewardship	1%	4%	28%
Basketball	0%	3%	25%
In-line skating	1%	2%	24%
BMX biking	1%	4%	14%
Skateboarding	1%	2%	12%



- Extremely high participation for many activities
- Activities with the highest numbers of participants are (in order of % participating within the past year): running/jogging/walking (99%), nature appreciation/wildlife viewing (97%), going to the beach (95%), hiking (92%), picnicking (84%), water activities such as swimming, kayaking, fishing (83%)
- Activities with the most frequent participation are (in order of % of those participating at least once per week within the past year): running/jogging/walking (83%), nature appreciation/wildlife viewing (62%), dog walking (44%), hiking (42%), visiting a playground (31%), cycling (29%)
- Unexpectedly high, especially in relation to other communities for certain activities (in order of % participating within the past year): nature appreciation/wildlife viewing (97%), beach and water activities (95 and 93% respectively), winter sports (70%), cycling/mountain biking (67 and 56% respectively), field sports and sports volunteering (51 and 43% respectively), involvement in park stewardship (28%)
- Other activities mentioned: volunteer work, visiting water park, geo-caching, horseback riding, hang-gliding, golf, kayaking, rock climbing, spectator, meditation



2. **In the last 12 months, how often have you visited the following parks?**

Responses are provided for the most frequent levels of participation as well as total participation (anyone participating at least once within the past year).

Parks Visited	5 times a week or more	1-4 times a week	Participation Total
Riverside Park	5%	25%	98%
McArthur Island Park	5%	18%	94%
Rivers Trails	6%	24%	90%
Park in my neighbourhood	18%	32%	89%
Peterson Creek Park	6%	14%	79%
Kenna Cartwright Park	5%	17%	76%
B.C. Wildlife Park	0%	2%	75%
Westsyde Centennial Park	3%	5%	53%
Dallas/Barnhartvale Park	2%	3%	28%





- Many parks have extremely high visitation (in order of % participating within the past year): Riverside Park (98%), McArthur Island Park (94%), Rivers Trails (90%), Peterson Creek (79%), Kenna Cartwright (76%), BC Wildlife Park (75%); also 89% visited a park in their neighbourhood within the past year

3. **If you have not visited a park in the city in the last 12 months or if you don't go as often as you might like to, why is that (please click on as many as apply)?**

The response percent reflects the percent of respondents who answered this question (104 only). Therefore the percent of total respondents indicating barriers is closer to 20% at the most.

Parks Visited	5 times a week or more	1-4 times a week	Participation Total
Riverside Park	5%	25%	98%
McArthur Island Park	5%	18%	94%
Rivers Trails	6%	24%	90%
Park in my neighbourhood	18%	32%	89%
Peterson Creek Park	6%	14%	79%
Kenna Cartwright Park	5%	17%	76%
B.C. Wildlife Park	0%	2%	75%
Westside Centennial Park	3%	5%	53%
Dallas/Barnhartvale Park	2%	3%	28%

- Barriers to visiting park (in order of number expressing each reason): too busy (49), none within walking distance (34), safety and security (26), parks do not meet my needs (21)
- Most of the comments related to dogs – can only visit parks where dogs are allowed, avoid parks with dog feces on trails; other comments are about certain parks feeling unsafe, lack of parks within walking distance, and lack of parking at major parks





4. **What is your level of satisfaction with each of the following in Kamloops?**

The percent satisfied includes those somewhat satisfied or very satisfied. Percent dissatisfied includes those somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.

Parks Characteristics	Percent Satisfied	Percent Dissatisfied	Don't Know / No Experience
Accessibility of parks	89%	10%	1%
Path and trails for walking	81%	16%	3%
Neighbourhood parkland close to home	79%	19%	1%
Natural parkland	79%	18%	4%
Nature trails	78%	17%	5%
Destination parkland with major natural or built features	77%	17%	6%
Special events in parks	77%	12%	12%
Maintenance of parks and trails	68%	25%	6%
Sports fields	66%	8%	26%
Playgrounds	66%	9%	25%
Outdoor areas for social and cultural gatherings	61%	22%	17%
Water parks	56%	18%	27%
Information on parks and trails	55%	34%	11%
Water activity options	53%	24%	23%
Winter activity options	50%	24%	25%
Sustainability of operations	45%	26%	30%
Safe places to ride a bicycle	41%	39%	20%
Mountain biking areas	40%	14%	46%
Community gardens	39%	17%	45%
Tennis courts	38%	14%	49%
Environmental stewardship	38%	27%	36%
Youth spaces such as skateboard park/bike skills	37%	15%	48%
Dog off-leash areas	35%	25%	40%
Dog walking options	33%	28%	39%
Outdoor exercise equipment	31%	23%	46%
Basketball courts	19%	16%	65%

Note: percentages of rows may not add up to 100 due to rounding to the nearest percent.





- Highest levels of satisfaction with parks are (in order of % of those somewhat satisfied or very satisfied): accessibility of parks (89%), paths and trails for walking (81%), neighbourhood parkland close to home (79%), natural parkland (79%), nature trails (78%), destination parkland and special events (both 77%)
- Highest levels of dissatisfaction with parks are (in order of % of those somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied): safe places to ride a bicycle (39%), information on parks and trails (34%), dog walking options (28%), environmental stewardship (27%), sustainability of operations (26%), dog off-leash areas and maintenances of parks and trails (both 25%)
- Most of the comments relate to dogs – desire for more off-leash areas and fewer parks where dogs are not allowed; many comments about the need for more/ better/ better maintained paths and bike routes; other comments are about boat launch/kayak feature needs, need for better maps and signs, interests in protecting the values of natural areas, and needs to offer more to children and youth

5. **Given that the City will be unable to make all improvements right away, please indicate how important each of the following is to you:**

Importance ratings reflect those who said the option is somewhat important or very important; unimportance ratings indicate somewhat unimportant or very unimportant. Appendix A provides the responses to this question for each area of the City separately:

Potential Improvements	Important Percent	Unimportant Percent	Don't Know / No Experience
Build more walkways or trails	74%	20%	6%
Acquire more parkland	72%	21%	6%
Upgrade existing parks	69%	25%	5%
Make improvements related to park use	57%	28%	15%
Improve maintenance	50%	36%	14%
Provide more recreation facilities	40%	47%	13%
Develop new or upgrade outdoor sports fields	30%	52%	17%

Note: percentages of rows may not add up to 100 due to rounding to the nearest percent.

- Highest priorities for improvements are (in order of % of those something is somewhat important or very important): build more walkways and trails (74%), acquire more parkland (72%), upgrade existing parks (69%), make improvements related to park use (57%)



- Least important in order for items where unimportance exceeds importance are: develop new or upgrade outdoor sports fields, provide more recreation facilities

6. **It is a challenge for the City to keep parks and facilities to the standard desired by the community. To what degree would you support the following as a way of raising funds for park improvements?**

Potential Funding Tool	Support Percent	Don't Support Percent	Unsure / Don't Know Percent
Private rentals, e.g. weddings	86%	8%	7%
Concessions/cafes	74%	18%	8%
Fees for commercial uses e.g., commercial dog walking, private boot camps	67%	23%	9%
Review fees and charges	42%	40%	18%
Selling small under-utilized parks in exchange for better parkland elsewhere	24%	59%	17%
Pay Parking	18%	75%	7%

Note: percentages of rows may not add up to 100 due to rounding to the nearest percent.

Most of the comments related to this question were negative in terms of the options presented, noting that commercial uses are generally not desirable in parks, that parks should be welcoming to all without needing to pay, and that the City should adapt and make use of all parkland for the benefit of the community, etc. There was some openness to consideration of fees for private rentals, concessions/cafes and fees for commercial uses.

**Comments by Community**

The comments related to each community and the major parks were analyzed separately and common themes were as follows:

- Aberdeen – need more parks and trails, more amenities in parks, connect trails within the community to trails above the community; Pineview Valley respondents request a water park, washrooms and more trails connecting to other areas
- Dallas / Barnhartvale – need safe walkways (e.g., to Todd Hill Park) and more trails connecting to communities to the west, need a gathering/use area for youth, e.g., skatepark, basketball, skating
- Batchelor Heights – need play areas



*“We need more small community parks for social gatherings.”*





- City Centre – primary comment is a need more safe bike paths and walkways to surrounding areas, also more options for dogs, CPTED (crime prevention through environmental design), community gardens, improve downtown tennis courts for casual use, enlarge skateboard park for teens downtown
- Dallas / Barnhartvale Nature Park – need wetland restoration plans
- Juniper Ridge – need trails connecting to communities to the west, dog off-leash area
- Kenna Cartwright Nature Park – need better/more maps and signs, issues with lack of dog scooping and doggy bag litter, positive and negative comments about dogs off leash
- McArthur Island Park – need better and more central play area, suggest dogs allowed on leash along trail from pedestrian bridge to MacKenzie Ave. , RV park closer to the park, discourage driving and parking, e.g., speed humps, parking fees
- McDonald Park – needs more maintenance, upgrades to water park, washrooms open longer hours to support high use by family daycares, group daycare, grandparents, nannies, and new mothers from March until October
- Mount Dufferin – need play area, dog off-leash area, safer trail connections to City Centre
- North Shore – need more trail connectivity between parks, more and better parks
- Peterson Creek Nature Park – concerns about safety and maintenance, bicycle/dog conflicts; need trail maps and instructional signs, issues with lack of dog scooping and doggy bag litter, trails need upgrading to reduce environmental impacts
- Pioneer Park – concerns about boating safety on river, needs small dog area, play area, more parking or transit/shuttle, more washroom hours in winter, more maintenance along river
- Prince Charles Park – needs play area upgrading and toddler play area
- Rayleigh and Heffley Creek – need more parkland to protect natural areas, gathering/use area for youth, e.g., bike park, skateboard park, water park; more trails including pedestrian/ bicycle bridge from Westsyde to Rayleigh
- Rivers Trail – continue to expand it, request for off-leash dogs near airport
- Riverside Park – concerns about safety, need winter use, better concession,





- Rose Hill – need for trails connecting to other communities
- Sahali – need tennis courts
- Tranquille – need better access to and a park on the lake, and better boat launching
- TRU – need better walking and cycling connections
- Upper Sahali - need better walking and cycling connections
- Valleyview - need better walking and cycling connections, need access to beach, community gardens
- West End – need more and bigger dog off-leash areas
- Westsyde – need more trail connectivity between parks, more and better parks, water park, comments for and against the equestrian facility in Westsyde Centennial Park
- Other/General – need bike racks in City-wide Parks along Rivers Trail; consider Adopt a Trail and Adopt a Park programs; park programs for children in summer



## 2.4 Focus Group Workshops

Focus group workshops with specific groups and the public were held as outlined in section 1.3. The groups invited to the workshops included: Parent Advisory Committees, sport user groups, youth (secondary schools), Community Associations, and environmental groups. A workshop with City staff from a variety of departments was also conducted.

After a presentation and discussion about the project, participants were asked where they live, followed by some general questions, which were used as a springboard for discussion. The answers to these questions were provided through an audience response system, augmented by brainstorming on sticky notes.

Participants were first asked to rate the parks system in Kamloops in general, with 86% providing a rating of excellent or very good. There were 62% of participants who indicated that they have a strong sense of community in their neighbourhood, and 72% have a strong sense of community in relation to the City as a whole.

The following is a summary of comments received at all workshops in relation to the strengths and challenges of the City, parkland, outdoor recreation facilities and use, and park management. The vision, strategies and recommendations generated by each group are listed in Appendix B.

*“Park space is extremely important to the health and well-being of a community. We should be increasing park space whenever new development occurs.”*



City Strengths	City Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diversity of parks and recreation</li> <li>• Diversity of habitats and natural features, e.g., rivers, ravines</li> <li>• High quality of parks and facilities, distinctive character</li> <li>• Accessibility to and availability of enjoyable facilities (at no cost), gathering areas, walkable</li> <li>• There is something (activities) for everyone (all ages), multi-use, community activities, outdoor-oriented</li> <li>• Safe place to raise children, family-centred, stable population</li> <li>• Strong sense of community, defined communities, social support systems</li> <li>• Tournament capital program, strong volunteer base</li> <li>• Great park in the core brings people together</li> <li>• Access to community gardens and farmer’s market</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety and security concerns, e.g., homeless camping, gangs, drugs, vandalism</li> <li>• Impacts on wildlife habitat and corridors from roads and development</li> <li>• City is very spread out, therefore people are not as connected</li> <li>• Not enough gathering areas</li> <li>• Accessibility</li> <li>• Not enough activities for youth</li> <li>• People too busy to be involved, connect with others</li> <li>• Irresponsible dog owners, e.g., people who don’t clean up after their dogs</li> <li>• Not enough City consultation and communication</li> </ul>

Parkland Strengths	Parkland Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total parks area, some large parks</li> <li>• Good access to parkland for most residents, well distributed parks</li> <li>• Diversity in park types throughout the city, including natural parks</li> <li>• Many activities and facilities in parks</li> <li>• Family and kid friendly</li> <li>• Accessible year round</li> <li>• Green spaces with trees</li> <li>• Parks central to neighbourhoods – promote better sense of community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor connectivity between green spaces and parks, city segmented, difficult for staff too</li> <li>• Parks often not in easy walking distance</li> <li>• Not enough trees in some parks</li> <li>• Development pressures intruding</li> <li>• Lack of planting diversity – edible foods, creativity, native xeriscape, fruit and berry trees</li> <li>• Lack of public spaces for outside interaction in neighbourhoods</li> <li>• Some of the spaces that were left as “parks” are primarily gullies and have limited use</li> <li>• Degradation of green spaces/facilities in parks</li> </ul>

Outdoor Recreation Strengths	Outdoor Recreation Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good variety of facilities and activities</li> <li>• Parks for different purposes and age groups - trails, recreation, sports, wildlife viewing</li> <li>• Children’s play areas and water parks</li> <li>• Sports fields</li> <li>• Walking/hiking/biking trails and exercise equipment</li> <li>• Events, e.g., Music in the Park</li> <li>• Dog parks and welcome of dogs</li> <li>• Good information and signage</li> <li>• Restrooms in many facilities</li> <li>• McArthur Island Park – centralized venue, caters to multiple events</li> <li>• TCC/fieldhouse – excellent facility</li> <li>• Horticulture – baskets, displays</li> <li>• Accessibility</li> <li>• Low commercial use in parks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not enough trails, lack of connectivity</li> <li>• Lack of bicycle–specific trail systems</li> <li>• Limited accessible playgrounds, parks and trails</li> <li>• Access to parks by bike or walking is difficult or unsafe</li> <li>• Lack of amenities in some neighbourhoods</li> <li>• Not enough signs – interpretive, regulatory and directional, no smoking signs (schools)</li> <li>• Not enough: water features, drinking fountains, multi-use parks, outdoor basketball courts, gathering/entertainment areas, community gardens, activities for youth, free riding bike trails and BMX bike park area, dog parks, wildlife viewing areas</li> <li>• Not enough winter uses: no community outdoor rinks or sanctioned sledding hills</li> <li>• Lack of public access to washrooms</li> <li>• Equipment is dated, e.g., courts, fences, playground equipment</li> <li>• Some parks need further development</li> <li>• Availability of proper fields required for sports (per sport groups)</li> </ul>



*“Acquiring more properties that contain natural wildlife habitat values and conserving those natural habitat values is important to me.”*



Park Management Strengths	Park Management Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High standard of maintenance by committed staff</li> <li>• Stewardship projects very positive experience</li> <li>• Natural area management is good, e.g., Peterson Creek Park, riparian protection</li> <li>• Many quality sports fields</li> <li>• Aesthetically pleasing, beautification</li> <li>• Strong Food Policy Council, success with community gardens and community kitchens – private plots, garden to table program, Workshops on growing veggies, Council edible pot completion last year, interest in public plots of edible food</li> <li>• Dog bags are everywhere</li> <li>• Good interface fire management and biological weed control</li> <li>• Trail etiquette communicated well in the brochure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance concerns– garbage collection, including along river shoreline, washrooms</li> <li>• Maintenance – coordination with schools – field repair, mowing</li> <li>• People not picking up after dogs in parks and natural areas</li> <li>• Not enough tree canopy in new developments</li> <li>• Weekend maintenance during events isn't great</li> <li>• Dog ban on MacArthur Island</li> <li>• Conflicts between walkers and bikers</li> <li>• Sustainability of irrigation, maintenance costs</li> <li>• Challenge eating public plants – quality concern</li> <li>• Dog/wildlife conflicts especially coyotes s</li> <li>• Snow removal and sand/salt for safe pathways (especially to schools)</li> <li>• Not enough advertising/encouragement to let people know what is available</li> <li>• Lack of protection for rarer ecosystems (from recreation largely)</li> <li>• Not enough consultation with individual neighbourhoods</li> </ul>

*“We have some of the best fields and sports facilities in Kamloops and we need to focus the available tax dollars to maintaining these.”*







## 3.0 VISION FOR THE FUTURE

### 3.1 Vision

The vision statement for the Parks Master Plan was generated from the focus group workshops, and reads as follows. It is written in the present tense since it describes how it is hoped the City's parks will be depicted in the future:

*The parks in Kamloops are diverse and sustainable, reflecting the unique natural characteristics of the City's environment; rivers, silt cliffs, wetlands, forests and grasslands. The parks are well distributed, interconnected, inclusive, and accessible, promoting healthy active living to residents and visitors. The community is engaged in social gatherings, planning and stewardship, helping to enrich quality of life through park-related opportunities.*

*"I would like to see more undeveloped green spaces, not manicured parks. It is important to me to have wildlife habitat within the urban area, trees and just space where there is no buildings or development."*



## 3.2 Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives provide guidance on directions that will be taken to meet community needs. They are based on the values and the strategies generated in the focus group workshops. More specific recommendations on ways to achieve the goals are provided later in this Plan:

### Environment

#### 1. Protect and enhance the quality, integrity and sustainability of the environment through parks.

- a. Protect, restore and enhance habitats, ecosystems, and wildlife habitat connectivity.
- b. Manage all areas for long-term sustainability.
- c. Use sustainable practices in parks operations and management.
- d. Use a sustainable approach to landscape planting, e.g., using edible plants, xeriscape design, and forage that is attractive to pollinators and other beneficial (predator) insects.
- e. Continue to encourage and support stewardship projects and activities.



### Connectivity and Accessibility

#### 2. Provide a connected trail system that links parks, schools and key destinations.

- a. Improve integration and connectivity of on-road and off-road trails to support alternative transportation.
- b. Connect parks and trails along the river as a high priority.
- c. Provide a high level of accessibility to and within parks and along trails.



### Social Connections and Community Engagement

#### 3. Provide opportunities for social gatherings and community engagement through parks.

- a. Provide well distributed parkland including neighbourhood-based parks and a variety of parks in each community.



- b. Provide more group gathering areas and spaces to support social activities in parks.
- c. Investigate options for making parks feel safer, including increased maintenance and enforcement if necessary.
- d. Provide a variety of opportunities in parks to integrate and include multiple interests and abilities.
- e. Encourage and support more events within parks.
- f. Work with communities to empower and engage citizens in volunteer work and consultation.

*“Enhance parks with public art, edible plants, native plants and spaces that attract people - food, water etc.”*

### Arts and Culture

- 4. **Consider arts, culture, and education in park planning and design.**
  - a. Provide more and better interpretive information in parks, including historical, First Nations, and environmental education.
  - b. Improve the experience of natural history appreciation.
  - c. Provide opportunities to include art and arts and culture activities in parks.



### Healthy Active Living

- 5. **Encourage as many people as possible to participate in activities within parks.**
  - a. Continue to provide and increase multiple use opportunities in parks.
  - b. Continue the dedication to sports development, balancing that with activities for those who do not participate in sports.
  - c. Plan and design all park areas and facilities to enhance the enjoyment of the user.
  - d. Recognize that parks and trails offer a retreat from urban life stresses and that they enhance quality of life.
  - e. Focus more on all-season use opportunities.
  - f. Increase public awareness of parks-related facilities and services.







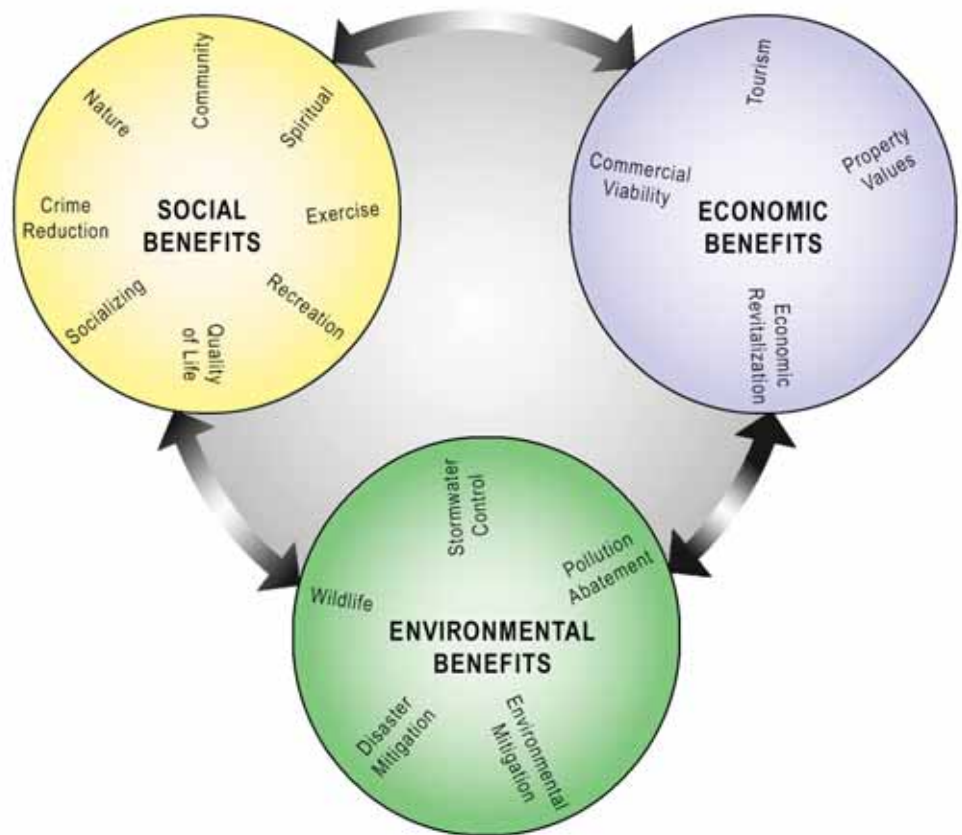
## Working Together

### 6. Work with others as needed to achieve the parks vision.

- a. Continue to employ partnerships with other organizations to achieve mutual and community benefits.
- b. Work with park user groups to meet all needs while minimizing conflicts.

## 3.3 Benefits

Parks offer many benefits to communities, and describing the benefits can help municipalities justify park-related expenditures. Parks and their amenities are very important in maintaining and improving health and liveability. Numerous studies have documented the benefits of parks and recreation. A good summary targeted specifically at parks and open space was published by The Trust for Public Land, 2003. The primary benefits of parks are identified and illustrated below. These are consistent with the topic areas commonly identified as the three pillars of sustainability.





## Environmental Benefits of Parks

Parks:

- Protect habitat, biodiversity and ecological integrity
- Protect wildlife, e.g., with connecting wildlife corridors
- Provide opportunities for environmental education and stewardship
- Help with pollution abatement and cooling of air and water, mostly from trees and soil
- Manage rainwater runoff and help to reduce costs of stormwater management systems
- Help to mitigate potential environmental disasters, e.g., flooding, erosion, aquifer depletion

*“Kamloops’ wilderness parks are unknowingly our city’s ecological hotspots. Peterson Creek Park is a gem filled with spring flowers such as yellow bells, anemones, balsam root, cacti and mariposa lily that provide pollen for our native bees as well as nesting habitat.”*

## Social Benefits of Parks

Parks:

- Contribute to community pride and identity
- Help to create stable neighbourhoods with strong social networks and community connectedness
- Enhance perceived quality of life
- Have spiritual values and provide opportunities to find peace of mind
- Access to parks increases frequency of exercise, and exercise increases the brain’s capacity for learning
- Help to make people healthier, physically and psychologically
- Expose people to nature; a growing body of research shows that contact with the natural world improves physical and psychological health
- Help to reduce crime, due partly to community involvement in neighbourhood parks
- Provide recreation opportunities; play is a critical element in learning and child development
- Support urban agriculture, a growing movement with social, economic, environmental and health benefits



## Economic Benefits of Parks

Parks:

- Increase property values of nearby properties
- Increase the viability of adjacent commercial areas
- Help with economic revitalization, since successful parks can help to attract and retain businesses and residents
- Provide tourism benefits, helping to shape city identity, providing recreation opportunities to visitors, and supporting sports and other events that bring substantial positive economic impacts





## 4.0 PARKLAND

### 4.1 Parks Classification

Classification of parks and open spaces can help to provide an understanding of the various roles of parkland, which can be a useful planning and management tool. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan of 2003 included the following types of parks:

- City-wide Parks
- District Parks
- Neighbourhood Parks
- Tot Lots
- Natural Areas
- Biking/Walking Trails

These categories were used for that particular plan, and they are reflected in the Kamplan Official Community Plan. The park types were mostly assimilated into the City's park planning system; however, a number of additional park types were being used by the City at the outset of the 2011 planning process, and some of the classifications of specific parks were inconsistent. It is customary to review and refine the park classification system when new Master Plans are prepared.

*“Ensure that we have a good balance of parkland throughout the City.”*

The following is the proposed park classification system, based on an understanding of the different roles of parks and open space in the City (see Map 1):



- City-wide Parks - usually, but not necessarily over 10 ha (25 ac), city-wide parks draw visitors from the entire city and beyond. People may visit these parks due to the natural features, and/or the facilities and opportunities offered. City-wide parks draw people who specifically travel to spend time “in the park”, for activities as diverse as picnics, special events and sports. Most City-wide parks offer a wide range of activity opportunities. Examples of City-wide parks include public waterfronts, urban plazas, tournament sports facilities, major event venues, and cultural/historic features.
- Community Parks - typically at least 5 ha (12.5 ac), community parks serve several neighbourhoods, and include a range of recreational facilities, such as playgrounds, walkways or trails, parking lots, and sports fields. They are meant to form the visual, physical and social focus of the community.
- Neighbourhood Parks - typically between 0.2 ha (0.5 ac) and 5 ha (12.5 ac), neighbourhood parks generally serve the catchment area of or similar to that of an elementary school. Neighbourhood parks typically include play equipment, pathways, open grass, and seating. They may also include other recreation or athletic facilities. These parks are meant to form the visual, physical and social focus of the neighbourhood. Access is usually by walking so neighbourhood parks do not require parking lots.
- Tot Lot – typically under 0.2 ha (0.5 ac), tot lots serve small local areas, usually catering to residents within a two block radius. Facilities include some play equipment, grass and trees. Tot lots are expensive to maintain for the benefits offered. They are often the result of the 5% park dedication acquired through subdivision.
- Linear Parks – the primary purpose of these parks is to support a trail. Other facilities may include benches and staging areas and trail entry points.
- Nature Parks – these parks include natural areas such as hillsides, forested or riverfront lands. Facilities such as parking lots, signs, trails, gathering areas, and washrooms support public access and use. People visit these parks to enjoy the natural setting.
- Open space – these spaces include City-owned natural areas which are primarily unsuitable for urban development (e.g., gullies). These areas often have informal undesignated trails.
- School sites – includes the green space portion of public school sites (school buildings and parking lots are excluded). These are considered within the park system because the land usually has park values. Even though some schools may close, the sites are likely to remain available for community uses.





Note: boulevards and medians, which are maintained by Parks, are not included in the parks inventory because they are not named, designated or used as park space. Many of these spaces are within the road right-of-way.

The City also contains Provincial Parks and Ecological Reserves adjacent to its boundaries, with some extending into the City.

The City uses several different zones for parks including: P1 – Park, OS – Open Space, and P4 – Public Facilities.



## Major Parks

Since they are the most important parks in the City, the following is a summary of the City-wide parks as well as the two largest nature parks:

**BC Wildlife Park** – outdoor zoo and natural setting, run by a non-profit, City land, City provides a grant, lots of school programs, targeted to youth

**Exhibition Park** – major athletic park – Charles Anderson Stadium - Canada Games fastball, 2 slopitch diamonds, next to Rivers Trail, small dog park, small skatepark, River Street community garden, “Old Yacht Club” – community hall with an underused wharf, Horseshoe Club, tennis courts

**Juniper Bike Ranch** – major mountain-biking park with skills area and trails graded for level of difficulty; management agreement with group, City pays them to manage the park, there are mountain bike camps, store clinics

**Kenna Cartwright** – very large nature park; has signs for way-finding, distance markers, skill level; outstanding views, ponds; major uses are walking, dog walking and mountain biking (mostly on designated trails)



**McArthur Island Park** – multi-activity park with sports dedicated primarily to youth sports and soccer - contains many soccer fields and ball diamonds; Norbrock Stadium – international level baseball, Nature Plant Walk, Butterfly Garden, xeriscape garden; restaurant; 9 hole executive golf course; boat launch with parking; Sports Centre (hosts trade shows too); Boys and Girls Club; skatepark; fitness stations; part of the Rivers Trail network; major concern is gridlock on the ring road, more parking is being added





**Peterson Creek Park** – relatively natural setting with trail network south of the City Centre, gullies with many access points from surrounding neighbourhoods, provides a trail connection between upper level neighbourhoods and the City Centre

**Pioneer Park** – large grass area and beach, connected to Riverside Park via Waterfront Park, washroom building, used primarily by youth and for dog walking, Rivers Trail passes through adjacent to the parking lot

**Tournament Capital Ranch** – major sports park for slo-pitch and rugby; agriculture theme on the remaining land, play area, perimeter trail proposed, irrigation and fire protection use river water, drinking water is trucked in to a large cistern, Phase 2 will include an RV park, possible fish ponds, possible winter use

**Riverside Park** – primary riverfront park in the City Centre; major activities are walking, lounging, beach use, play and water play, lounging, concerts, special events, tennis; major facilities are the Rotary Bandshell, pathways, tennis courts, playground and spray park, rose garden, Japanese garden, lawn bowling, beach, pier, and concession/washrooms

**Waterfront Park** – connecting walkway between Riverside Park and Pioneer Park, site of the Kamloops Community Forest and public art

### Strengths

- Kamloops has a wide variety of different types of parks.

### Challenges

- Parks are not all zoned correctly, e.g., there are boulevards, unusable cliffs and landlocked parcels of land currently zoned as P-1 (park).

**Recommendations**

**Planning**

4.1.1 Integrate the new parkland classification system into other City documents as appropriate, and use it as a tool when planning and managing parks.

4.1.2 Review the zoning of parks, and revise it to be consistent with the new classification system.

## 4.2 Parkland Supply

Kamloops has 74 parks covering over 370 hectares. The amount of parkland in the older developed areas has not changed much in recent years. There is some infill development occurring in several neighbourhoods, but it is difficult to get more parkland in these locations. The City does have a capital account for land acquisition along the rivers, hoping to achieve trail corridors at a minimum.

Most of the newer Kamloops parkland is in areas that have developed more recently. Parks for newly developing areas are negotiated by the City. The minimum requirement is a 5% park dedication as required by the *Local Government Act*. This dedication is intended to support recreational uses such as sports and active play. Developing areas include: Aberdeen / Pineview Valley, Campbell Creek, Batchelor Heights, Juniper Ridge (expanding east and west), and a small amount of growth in Brocklehurst. There is also a development of around 1,500 units proposed at Tranquille on Kamloops Lake in the western extent of the City at the terminus of the Rivers Trail.

There is a trend towards developing steeper areas as flatter land has become less available. In these steeper lands, it can be difficult to acquire suitable sites for community and neighbourhood parks. Parks now works with Planning on the parkland to be acquired through development, focusing on obtaining usable land, public access, trail connections, and connectivity. The City is planning to take ownership of all undevelopable land at the subdivision stage and to rezone it as Open Space (OS). This will enable the City to preserve and manage the natural resources.

There are extensive provincial parks and Crown lands around the urban areas, and there are many Kamloops residents who care about natural areas and want to see more of them protected. Kamloops has a highly varied landscape including lowland cottonwoods, ponderosa pine woodlands, and grasslands. In the past several decades, various studies have identified the environmental values and areas worthy of protection in the Kamloops area. Some of this mapping is included in the OCP. The riverfronts were noted during consultation as having a very high priority for protection as parkland.

Protection of representative ecosystems is an important provincial responsibility; many municipalities as fortunate as Kamloops assist in protecting these areas in their natural parklands. There are ongoing efforts to protect more natural areas around and within Kamloops. The City requires environmental assessments as a component of large development projects. BC Parks is preparing a Park Management Plan for the Lac du Bois area, and there could be an opportunity to add to



***“Strategic acquisition of new land for parks and trails should reflect the ecological value of the sites themselves or the value of connecting other ecologically rich parks or natural areas - that is, strengthen the NETWORK for the benefit of species/ecological function and to enhance recreational connectivity.”***



that provincial park within City limits. Residents particularly appreciate the fact that from most neighbourhoods, there is easy access to natural areas.

Some lands under other ownership complement City parks in providing outdoor recreation and nature opportunities. School sites are valuable as parkland even where schools have closed, as the sites are typically retained for public use.

Multi-family developments are required to provide an outdoor amenity area such as a play or seating area for residents since many of these developments lack private yards. Sometimes this requirement is waived if there is a park or school adjacent.

The City is also affected by growth in adjacent areas. For example, the Sun Rivers development on Kamloops Indian Reserve No. 1 includes residents who visit municipal parks. Likewise, the Tk'emlúps Indian Band lands have resources, particularly beaches, of interest to Kamloops residents for park use.

Divesting of parkland that has relatively low values and minimal use was raised as an area to be explored in the PMP planning process. Could these properties be sold or exchanged for better parkland? Efforts to sell land on McLean Street caused neighbourhood opposition. This is consistent with the experiences of other municipalities. "Selling" of parkland is rarely supported by communities, even when the land appears to be unused and ignored; "exchanges" of land are sometimes successful.

Another challenging issue related to parkland is encroachment, i.e., private improvements on parkland which limit public access. The City has not yet determined how to address this as it can be time-consuming and expensive to pursue.

### **Population-Based Parkland Supply**

Many municipalities use population-based standards to calculate and plan their supply of parkland, and some also use area-based standards. Kamloops has not established standards of supply in the past; however, there was interest by Council in reviewing the quantitative parkland supply in this Master Plan. Standards are controversial, with some believing that the quantitative approach detracts from a qualitative consideration of parks and recognition that conditions are unique in every municipality. In B.C., even where standards are not embraced for their inherent value, they are often used to assist in the calculation of park development cost charges (DCCs).





Even in jurisdictions where parkland supply standards exist, they are usually used as a guideline, rather than a definitive requirement. Park supply standards can be applied in a flexible manner to ensure that a full range of park types is available to all residents. They enable a community to measure their supply over time, and to compare themselves with other communities.



Population-based parkland supply is typically calculated on the more active types of parkland, excluding natural areas and open space. Figure 4.1 illustrates the existing supply of these types of parkland in relation to population. For the active parks owned by the City, the current supply is about 4.3 ha/1,000 population. School sites add about 1.8 ha / 1,000 population more. If the City were not to acquire any additional parkland by 2021 despite an annual population increase of 1.25%, the parkland supply would drop to about 3.8 ha/1,000 population for City land plus 1.6 ha/1,000 for the school sites.

Classification	Number	Current Area (ha)	Current Supply ha/1000 pop	Future Area (ha)	Future Supply ha/1000 pop
City-wide	11	243.7	2.81	243.7	2.48
Community	9	48.1	0.56	48.1	0.49
Neighbourhood	21	46.0	0.53	64.2	0.65
Linear	10	31.7	0.37	45.9	0.47
Tot lot	25	5.2	0.06	5.2	0.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>374.7</b>	<b>4.33</b>	<b>407.1</b>	<b>3.82</b>

School sites	159.1	1.84		1.62
Assumed population (2011) - 86,625				
Projected population (2021) - 98,078				

**Figure 4.1: Population-Based Parkland Supply**

The City’s Sustainable Kamloops Plan (SKP) contains a target of 15 to 20 ha of park space per 1000 people in Kamloops. “This ratio will include all types of park space (active, passive, open space and so forth).” The SKP does not provide criteria for the ownership of that land. Figure 4.2 illustrates the parkland supply based on two different ownership assumptions. The future supply is based on existing



Classification	Current Area (ha)	Current Supply ha/1000 pop	Future Area (ha)	Future Supply ha/1000 pop
All City Parks & Open Space plus Public School Sites*	1,672.8	19.3	1,705.2	17.4
All of the above plus Provincial Parks	4,473.3	51.6	4,505.7	45.9

\*Open Space portion of School Sites only

**Figure 4.2: Population-Based Parkland Supply Compared to SKP Targets**

### Comparisons

For many years, the Canadian standard for supply of active parkland was 4 ha/1000 population (10 acres/1000) (not including nature parks and trails corridors). Many municipalities, particularly the ones with a large land base, still have population-based standards within that range (Figure 4.3). As many municipalities become denser, especially within downtown cores, population-based standards of supply have been decreasing. Municipalities with smaller land areas, which are mostly 'built out,' cannot meet the traditional supply standards due to the high land values and lack of available undeveloped land.

Some municipalities with extensive waterfront also have lower parkland supply. Waterfront land is also very expensive to acquire. Certainly some waterfront parks can offer more per area than inland sites in terms of the view opportunities, experience of nature, and in some cases access to water for recreation. In a survey conducted in 2006, the BCRPA found the provincial average parkland supply to be 2.51 ha/1000 population.

Classification	Kamloops	Saanich	Vernon	Maple Ridge / Pitt Meadows	Abbotsford	Kelowna	Provincial Average
City/Municipal	2.8	2.4	2.0	1.8	0.6	1.2	1.04
Community	0.9	1.4	1.0	1.3	1.5	0.4	0.80
Neighbourhood	0.6	1.2	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.51</b>

All numbers are in ha/1000 population

Kamloops Community includes Linear, Neighbourhood includes Tot Lot

Kelowna City/Municipal includes Recreation Park

Abbotsford includes an additional 1.3 ha/1000 for Trails and Open Space

**Figure 4.3: Population-Based Parkland Supply Comparisons**

Figure 4.3 may not be a completely direct comparison among communities, as there is some variation in what the parkland numbers include with respect to school grounds, greenway / trail corridors, natural areas, etc.

## Area-Based Parkland Supply

Another way of measuring parkland supply is in relation to land area. Some municipalities have standards such that 12% of their total land area should be occupied by protected areas, consistent with provincial standards. This measure would typically include open space, natural areas and parks managed by other jurisdictions. Figure 4.4 illustrates the parkland supply by area. Kamloops, with over 14% in parks and protected areas, is very well positioned in this regard, primarily due to the provincial parks as well as the large nature parks.

Classification	Area (ha)	% of City
City-wide Park	243.7	0.8%
Community Park	48.1	0.2%
Neighbourhood Park	46.0	0.1%
Tot Lot	5.2	0.0%
Linear Park	31.7	0.1%
Nature Park	1,089.8	3.5%
Open Space	49.2	0.2%
School Site	158.7	0.5%
Provincial Park	2,800.5	8.9%
Remainder of City	27,019.3	
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,492.3</b>	<b>14.2%</b>



**Figure 4.4: Area-Based Parkland Supply**

## Spatial Analysis

The third way to analyze parkland supply is by service area, or the distance people have to walk to access a park (Map 2). This analysis is conducted to determine a resident's ability to walk to a park that meets local needs. This assessment of service area is approximate because the distances are measured in straight lines; in some cases walking routes are circuitous or major roads or steep slopes are a real or perceived barrier. The rivers in Kamloops are included as barriers to access in the spatial analysis. The spatial analysis is illustrated in relation to population density, since parks are more important in areas where more people live.





Ideally, every resident would have 5-minute walking access (400 m) to a neighbourhood park, **and** a 10 minute walk (800 m) to a city-wide or community park. Parks under 0.2 hectares are shown with a reduced service area (100 m) since such parks only serve residents within the immediate vicinity. In most communities, achieving those walking distances for both neighbourhood and city-wide/community parks is an unrealistic expectation. That is the case in Kamloops because the City covers such a large area.

### Strengths

- Kamloops has a high standard of parkland supply.
- Some of the closed schools are becoming community centres, e.g., Overlander Park.
- Funding is available for purchasing riverfront land.

### Challenges

- Acquiring new parkland within developed areas is difficult because land is very expensive and not always available, however there are key properties that would help to improve existing parks, provide connections, or reduce/eliminate conflicts with existing parks.
- In areas designated for future development, it can be challenging to obtain sufficient land for parks, especially because only 5% park dedication is required by the Local Government Act, e.g., sometimes steep gullies were provided as parkland in the past.
- School enrolment is changing, causing potential impacts on parkland supply, e.g., two schools have closed in Westsyde while a new school has been built in Aberdeen.
- The spatial analysis illustrates a potential need for additional parks in the following locations, especially if school sites were to become unavailable: Westsyde, Aberdeen, North Shore, Batchelor Heights, Brocklehurst, Valleyview.



### Recommendations

#### Planning

4.2.1 Adopt parkland acquisition standards to guide the acquisition of parkland in **developing** areas (see Map 1 for potential future park locations). The following are draft acquisition standards:

- **City-wide Parks** – designate where there is an important natural feature that is unique to the City, e.g., mountain,



major creek corridor, or where there is an expressed need for a unique destination experience

- **Community Parks** – preferably at least 5 ha (12.5 ac); central to the community; 10 minute walk (0.8 km) to most residents; adjacent to a secondary school and/or community/recreation centre if possible; connected to residents and other parks with trails; terrain and configuration can accommodate minimum of a play area, gathering area, loop trail, multi-use court, and a sports field; road frontage on two sides; small amount of disabled parking; on transit route; small washrooms or washrooms available at adjacent school
- **Neighbourhood Parks** - minimum 0.2 ha (0.5 ac), preferably at least 1 ha (2.5 ac); central to the neighbourhood; 5 minute walk (0.4 km) to most residents; adjacent to an elementary school if possible; terrain and configuration can accommodate minimum of a play area, small grass area, and seating; road frontage on one side
- **Linear Parks** – establish to support a network of trails through the community linking community parks, schools, commercial and institutional uses, key parts of the community, and links to other communities
- **Nature Parks** – establish for natural and environmentally important and sensitive areas such as hillsides, forested or riverfront lands with recreation opportunities or areas with historic or cultural resources; refer to previous studies and systems such as the Species at Risk and the BC Conservation Data Centre to guide the analysis of resource values
- **Open Space** – establish to include City-owned natural areas which are primarily unsuitable for urban development (e.g., gullies); these areas should not be included in the 5% parkland dedication
- Include Nature Parks and/or Open Space within and between new developments

4.2.2 Adopt parkland acquisition criteria to guide the acquisition of parkland in developed areas (see Map 1 for potential future park locations). The following are draft acquisition criteria:

- Land provides or improves connectivity with other parks and trails, especially the Rivers Trail
- Property is waterfront of rivers or lakes
- Land contributes to the parks system in terms of aesthetic and/or recreation values,





- Land has environmental value, natural resources at risk, or high potential for environmental enhancement, e.g., along a creek or river
- Land has cultural value
  - Land is adjacent to and improves the quality of an existing park, e.g., increases road frontage, provides opportunities for more recreation facilities, trail links
  - Land appeals to the community, i.e., community interest, likelihood of supporting high use
  - Land is in a location that is currently underserved and/or where population is increasing
  - Site will support accessibility, i.e., number of people potentially able to access the site
  - Land has the potential to improve safety, e.g., sightlines
  - Acquisition is practical in that the City will be able to implement improvements in the short to medium term
  - Cost is reasonable, or an opportunity arises to obtain land that may be suitable as parkland at a cost below market
  - There is alignment with other City initiatives

4.2.3 Explore opportunities to exchange existing unused and/or undeveloped parkland for better parkland.

4.2.4 Increase the maintenance budget as parks are developed and upgraded and as additional open space is acquired (open space management involves beetle kill, noxious weeds, dead trees, and wildland interface management to prevent the spread of fire).



## 5.0 OUTDOOR RECREATION

### 5.1 Park Planning Process

Park planning, programming and design are undertaken by Parks staff, sometimes with the help of a consultant. Consultation typically involves a public open house in the neighbourhood where the park is located. Conceptual designs are prepared or modified based on the neighbourhood consultation. Construction is contracted out or conducted by City staff, depending on the scope of the project and staff availability.

#### Strengths

- The City engages communities in park planning and design.
- Some Community Associations are very active and involved in park planning and design.

#### Challenges

- It is sometimes difficult to attract residents to participate in park planning and design processes.

*“I think concessions and cafes are well suited for large parks only.”*





- Some Community Associations are not very active or involved in park planning and design.

## Recommendations

### Planning

- 5.1.1 Involve the community in parks planning and design processes, soliciting input on the amenities desired in parks.
- 5.1.2 Work with Community Associations and other stakeholder groups, and support them in building up their own capacity.

## 5.2 Park Design

Approaches to park design are always evolving. Many of the recent trends involve incorporation of innovative environmental solutions. In Kamloops, this includes edible plantings in parks, xeriscape, water conservation, rainwater and stormwater management, solar power for hot water, water recirculation systems for water parks, motion-activated lighting, sustainable products in furniture, and alternative transportation. It also includes identification, protection, enhancement and interpretation of natural areas, since these are very important within many of the parks in Kamloops.

In addition to environmental considerations, there is increasing public interest in parks as social meeting and gathering areas. Community members affected by the age of technology have interests in connecting with others in person.

Universal design that improves accessibility and is inclusive of people of all abilities and interests is very important, especially due to the aging population. There are also significant public concerns about safety and security in parks, even in some of the neighbourhoods that are apart from downtown. Safety and security are important because parks cannot deliver as many benefits if they are not being used due to these concerns.

### Strengths

- The City works to remain aware of trends and best practices in park design.
- Safety and security are addressed using CPTED principles.
- Parks address universal design, providing improved accessibility and inclusive design where possible and practical.
- The City has been installing xeriscape plantings with drip irrigation.





- The City updates infrastructure in the older parks to meet new standards and expectations.
- There are many outstanding natural areas within the City's parks.

## Challenges

- The City has been increasing parking in major parks without significant emphasis on exploring alternative transportation instead, e.g., McArthur Island Park.
- Some older parks have been developed ad hoc, and require rethinking and redesign.
- Much of the older infrastructure in parks does not meet universal design standards.
- There are opportunities for improving park design to meet current trends.



## Recommendations

### Planning

- 5.2.1 Plan and design parks to address a wide range of community interests, such as new activities, safety and security, environmental concerns, social opportunities, universal design, and alternative transportation.
- Assess and respond to evolving trends and best practices in park design.
  - Involve the police and social services agencies in park design and management to address safety and security concerns.
  - Design landscapes in parks that are appropriate to the setting, the park type, and maintenance practices, e.g., focus horticulture in destination parks, native planting in more natural areas, reduced maintenance where possible near natural areas, on park edges, or in less used locations within parks.
  - Provide sufficient parking within higher use parks, while exploring other modes of transportation (e.g., transit, bike, walking), temporary parking on grass for special events, sharing of parking lots, (e.g., with schools or shopping centres), and other means to reduce the amount of parkland used for parking.
  - Design parks to meet high environmental standards with innovative solutions.





- Identify, protect, enhance and provide interpretation of natural and cultural resources within parks.
- Plan all new activities and facilities within parks to respect ecosystem values and to minimize impacts on natural resources.
- Provide opportunities for social gathering areas in parks.
- Address and improve accessibility and inclusivity with any park development work.

5.2.2 Prepare Master Plans for major new parks, including: former Aberdeen Golf Course, Jimeva Park, Skyline Park, Dufferin Park expansion.

5.2.3 Prepare Management Plans for existing parks that have high potential in relation to their current condition.

### ***Capital Development***

5.2.4 Develop new parks, including former Aberdeen Golf Course, Jimeva Park, Skyline Park, Dufferin Park expansion.

5.2.5 Upgrade the following parks, with potential improvements to be considered as noted:

- Brocklehurst Park – add trails, lounging and gathering areas to expand use and social opportunities
- Exhibition Park – add amenities to animate the waterfront, improve the quality of the landscape along River Street to make it more park-like
- MacDonald Park – strengthen park link with the river, upgrade water park
- Overlander Park – add washrooms either at the park or the adjacent community centre
- Prince Charles Park – add pathways to tie facilities together and to improve accessibility, upgrade play area and add toddler play area (this is planned for 2012)
- Raemor Park – add a small bike skills area
- Riverside Park – more winter use, new concession, improved gathering areas, entries and path loops
- Rose Hill Park – add open grass area to achieve a neighbourhood park character
- Westsyde Centennial Park – add new amenities, e.g., water park, skateboard park, washroom and change rooms, pickle ball courts, equestrian facility (Westsyde Community Association is promoting these projects and is willing to contribute 10% of the costs)

5.2.6 Enhance parks to increase opportunities (see Appendix C for a list of potential enhancements).

### 5.3 Trails

The Trails Master Plan sets the future direction for trail upgrading and new trail development, worth a total of \$42.8 million. The Rivers Trail is the jewel of the trails network in Kamloops, therefore the upgrading and construction required to complete this trail is the main priority of the Trails Master Plan. This will be accomplished through park development and synergies with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plans.

Other trails align the with Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plans, such as the Peterson Creek multi-use trail, may progress concurrently with the Rivers Trail initiatives. Major projects like these will enhance existing trails in Kamloops Nature Parks. One of the important initiatives of the Trails Master Plan is the implementation of a classification, way-finding, and amenities program, including access and staging points. These minor capital improvements will enhance the existing trail network to the benefit of the community.

#### Strengths

- Trails in Kamloops are the most popular of all park amenities.
- The Rivers Trail is a highlight of the parks system.
- There is major public interest in and support for trails.

#### Challenges

- There is a need for more connectivity between existing trails.
- Some trails need upgrading and more maintenance, especially on steep sections, e.g., to Aberdeen.
- There are not enough washrooms available on trails (see section 5.11).
- In some locations, access corridors to trails are fenced off by private land owners.
- Opportunities to extend the Rivers Trail to Rayleigh and Tournament Capital Ranch have not yet been achieved.

*“We need park connectivity, so we can go from Kenna to a new park in Pineview/Aberdeen, through green spaces to Peterson to a new park in Rose Hill/Juniper/Barnhartvale, out to another natural area park near the Wildlife Park.”*





## Recommendations

### Planning

5.3.1 Coordinate new trail corridor acquisition and trail development in parks with the Trails Master Plan.

### Capital Development

5.3.2 Build loop trails around parks that are connected to the pedestrian/bike networks, e.g., Riverside Park, TCC Ranch, and Westsyde Centennial.

5.3.3 Work with Tk'emlups Indian Band and CNR on trail connections north to Rayleigh and southeast of the Halston Bridge across their land.

### Operations and Management

5.3.4 Work with land owners adjacent to trails to make access points available.

5.3.5 Ensure that trails are maintained to support the level of use, considering an Adopt-a-Trail program.

*“Make launching a boat easier in Kamloops and make access to Kamloops Lake easier.”*

## 5.4 Waterfront Activities

Waterfront activities, such as beach use, swimming, kayaking, motor boating, fishing, and tubing, are very popular in Kamloops. The beaches with the highest use are in Overlander Park, Riverside Park, and Pioneer Park. The Mission Flats Nature Park beach is used by smaller numbers of people.

Boat launches are located at Pioneer Park, McArthur Island Park, and Thompson Drive in Valleyview. There are challenges with congestion and parking of trailers at most of these locations. Some recent improvements have been made to the Thompson Drive boat launch including bank rehabilitation, landscape improvements, and formalizing the parking layout.

### Strengths

- Waterfront activities are very popular.

### Challenges

- Pioneer Park has limited space for parking at the boat launch.
- The public requested more and better boat access to the rivers.
- Some locations may have potential for additional beach use, e.g., Valleyview, Tk'emlups IR, Tranquille.





## Recommendations

### *Operations and Management*

- 5.4.1 Conduct planning to explore options for increasing parking capacity at or near the boat launch in Pioneer Park.
- 5.4.2 Explore new boat launch options, and some smaller launches for non-motorized boats.
- 5.4.3 Explore more beach opportunities, including as a partnership with Tk'emlúps.

## 5.5 Sports Facilities

### Field Sports

The Tournament Capital Program goal was to make Kamloops “the best tournament experience”. The City has received many compliments on its accomplishments in this regard, and the Tournament Capital Program and major commitments to sports groups are almost complete.

Soccer continues to grow. Although there are two new fields coming at Aberdeen, a new field at Juniper, and improvements at McArthur Island, soccer continues to use school fields and there are concerns with the quality of the those fields. There are also scheduling challenges; the soccer groups do not want to play on Friday, and they do not want to schedule two games per evening.

Adult slo-pitch also has high participation rates. It is now accommodated with the eight new ball diamonds and facilities at the Tournament Capital Ranch. There are also two new rugby fields there. Participation in baseball is remaining stable.

The City has maintenance standards for different classes of sports fields, but all fields tend to be maintained to the same high standard. The school district has different standards and does not have the capacity to maintain sports fields to the same standard as the City, e.g., mowing, fertilizing and other maintenance is less frequent at schools. To compensate for this, community sports pay a lower rate for the use of school fields, and the City pays the School District to increase the maintenance on school fields used by community sports teams. There have been discussions about the City maintaining school fields.



The partnership between the City and the School District allows for efficient use of the fields in the City. The City books most school fields after school hours, and the booking system works well. The City built and maintains the fields at the new school, Pacific Way, which may be a new model. Some schools are closing; however, they are being converted to community uses. Community sports groups also use the fields at Thompson Rivers University (TRU), but TRU has priority for booking.

Fees and charges for sports fields have been in place for about two years. The City is raising the rates 5% annually, though the charges are lower than they are in other communities. The fees help to recoup some costs, but they do not come close to covering operating costs.



### Court Sports

The City has seven lacrosse boxes, with asphalt or concrete surfaces, which function as multi-use courts. They are well used in summer, and some are also flooded to be skating rinks in winter (see section 5.10?).

There are 47 tennis courts, of which 26 are in parks, the remainder on school sites. The Canada Games Rotary Tennis Club is City owned. The Kamloops Tennis Association is a private club for members only with eight courts that are tournament standard. Other courts in parks include four in Riverside Park, three in Overlander Park, two in Exhibition Park, and about seven in other locations. There are well used courts at Exhibition, Riverside, and Dufferin Parks. The City has had a program of upgrading tennis courts since 2006, and some of the courts have more use since being improved.

Basketball courts include three courts at McDonald Park, one at Westsyde Centennial Park, one at the multi-purpose court in Thompson Park in Dallas, and one hoop at Prince Charles Park. Other basketball courts are at schools.

There is a trend in other communities towards more multi-use courts rather than purely tennis or basketball courts, since multi-purpose courts can support more use over a longer portion of the year. New multi-use courts have been built at Westsyde Centennial Park.



A relatively new user group in Kamloops is pickleball players. Several courts were built for a group of about 30 people, mostly seniors who go south in the winter where pickleball is popular.

### Other

There is one disc golf course in Rose Hill Park. This user group would like to have more disc golf courses in the City.

## Strengths

- The City has had outstanding accomplishments related to sports fields due to the Tournament Capital Program.
- The City has a healthy budget for capital development and operations of sports facilities.
- The tennis community and other court users appear to have their needs met.

## Challenges

- Some school fields are not maintained to the same standard as City fields.
- There appears to be a need for a new disc golf course.
- The need for more pickleball courts has not been evaluated.

*“We must keep what we have safe for use - all sporting group/teams are very lucky in this City.”*

## Recommendations

### Planning

- 5.5.1 Work in partnership with the School District to determine how to offer the greatest benefits to the community in relation to the use of school sports fields and school grounds.
- 5.5.2 Work with soccer on scheduling in order to maximize the use of sports fields within the capacity of the fields.
- 5.5.3 Work with neighbourhoods to maximize the uses and benefits of courts, potentially converting more tennis courts to multi-purpose courts, and upgrading courts as needed to keep them in good condition.
- 5.5.4 Monitor the use of the pickleball courts to determine if more should be constructed.

## 5.6 Play and Exercise Areas

Kamloops has many play areas, most of which have been upgraded or replaced within the past eight years. The City is replacing two playgrounds annually, aiming for replacement of all play areas every 14 years. Some are universally accessible, e.g., Riverside Park, Prince Charles Park. In addition, the City has recently started supporting schools to build and upgrade their playgrounds, especially where school sites function as neighbourhood parks.

There are three water parks, in Riverside, Albert McGowan, and





McDonald Parks, plus a very popular wading pool at Prince Charles Park. Water-oriented parks are important in Kamloops due to the climate. Wading pools are challenging to maintain, e.g., it is necessary to test the water every two hours and drain the pool every night. Most municipal wading pools are small and old and municipalities are not building them anymore as a stand-alone facility, only including them in aquatic centres.

There is outdoor fitness equipment at McArthur Park, which is well used by all age groups. The City is considering another one in the former Aberdeen Golf Course.

### Strengths

- Play areas are generally well distributed and well maintained.
- Water parks and the one wading pool are very popular.
- The outdoor fitness equipment is successful.

### Challenges

- The School District lacks resources to build play areas similar to those in municipal parks.
- There are few playgrounds that meet universal design standards.
- There is public interest in more water parks, e.g., Westsyde, Aberdeen, Dallas / Barnhartvale, Rayleigh / Heffley Creek.
- There are public requests for more play areas, e.g., Batchelor Heights, Mount Dufferin, North Shore, Westsyde.



### Recommendations

#### *Planning*

- 5.6.1 Work with communities and neighbourhoods to determine their specific interests in play and outdoor exercise amenities.

#### *Capital Development*

- 5.6.2 Build more water parks so that they are distributed throughout the City in city-wide and community parks. An appropriate distribution for the time frame of this plan would be three to the north, e.g., Rayleigh, Westsyde, and North Shore (existing), and four to the south, e.g., City Centre (existing), Upper Sahali (existing), Aberdeen, and Dallas / Barnhartvale. Provide at least one of the north and two of the south as large water parks, and the other four can be smaller.



- 5.6.3 Upgrade McDonald Park water park.
- 5.6.4 Continue renewal of two play areas per year, as budget allows, considering universal design standards, non-traditional play elements and environments that make each park unique, especially in city-wide parks.
- 5.6.5 If outdoor exercise equipment is desired, locate it in the south of the City in a high-use park.
- 5.6.6 Work in partnership with the School District to upgrade their play areas in neighbourhoods lacking in City-owned park space.

*“Thank you for putting in a water park - it has brought the children and families together at Albert McGowan.”*

## 5.7 Youth Facilities

The highlight of the City’s youth facilities is the large skateboard park in McArthur Park. Built in two phases over five years at a cost over \$1 million, the skatepark is heavily used seven days per week. Helmets are required and there are occasional visits by a bylaw officer to monitor and encourage this. Bikes are allowed even though this has led to conflicts with skateboarders. There is also an older small skateboard park in Exhibition Park, with not as much use.

Another excellent facility, used mostly but not exclusively by youth, is the Bike Ranch, a mountain bike park with downhill trails, jumps and other structures, in Juniper. Located on City land, it is managed through a service agreement with a non-profit group that maintains it. Bike jumps and structures built by youth occur in other neighbourhoods as well, but these raise concerns about liability.

A BMX park at McArthur Park attracts all ages of participants. It is run by a club on a membership basis. This facility is to be relocated to Ord Road in Brocklehurst next to the Transit Centre. The BMX club is trying to encourage more membership, and wants to host the Nationals in 2012. BMX is an activity that is often of interest to youth.

Longboarding is a relatively new sport, with participants in Kamloops. It involves riding down paved surfaces on a board resembling a long skateboard. There are significant safety concerns since longboarders often share roads with vehicles. Best practices in other communities include use of paved paths or closing roads for longboard use at specific times. The longboarders in Kamloops are interested in a practice facility within a park.

Because of the conflicts between skateboards and bikes at McArthur Park, a review was conducted on best practices. Most skateboard parks in BC allow skateboards and bikes, similar to Kamloops, whereas in the US, many skateparks disallow bikes due to risk of collisions with skaters, damage to the skatepark, and lack of liability coverage.



Some of the solutions include: separate BMX parks for the bikers, bike “plazas” or areas designed for freestyle bike riding, dual use parks that can accommodate bikers and skateboarders, separate use times, and beginner times and clinics. There is no evidence that BMX bikes cause any more wear and tear than skateboarders or inline skaters.



Some of the most successful parks in the world are completely mixed use, and skateboarders, inline skaters, and BMX riders coexist in harmony. In fact, they inspire one another to try new tricks and new lines. Skaters and bikers also learn to anticipate each other’s movements, and they learn to respect, appreciate, and even participate in each other’s sports. Great parks designed and built well with input from all the user groups can serve multiple activities and build a community of action-sports enthusiasts. In the past, pegs and pedals on bikes damaged skateparks; this is not as common with newer skatepark construction, and many municipalities require plastic-coated pegs.

There have been concerns that more accidents occur in parks where bikers and skaters ride together, and that these accidents tend to be more severe. However, according to a study commissioned by Portland (OR) Parks and Recreation, there is no substantive data to support this theory. In fact, many parks have seen no increase in accidents since allowing access to BMX riders. The parks that see the most collisions—regardless of user groups—are the parks that host the biggest crowds.

The argument that a skater’s experience in the park is diminished by the presence of bikes—whether it is because the skater is afraid of colliding with a bike, feels the skating flow is disturbed by BMX riders’ big lines, or due to other concerns—holds a bit more weight. Skaters and bikers often agree that the riding experience in their favourite park is better—and feels safer—when they can have it all to themselves.



Youth facilities are intended to be good places for all youth to socialize, gain skills and get exercise. However, facilities with skateboard and bike skills areas and basketball hoops are often low on female participants. Keeping girls physically active takes encouragement as well as specific programming and design considerations. Research has shown that “girls want fun, a mix of physical and social activities, input into program design, girls and women only programming, a safe and supportive environment, peer age groupings, basic skill learning, role model leaders, food, and choice of clothing and music” (“On the Move” program by the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport and Physical Activity).

Inclusive youth facility design provides broad ranges of activities, levels of physical challenges and places to hang out. Providing youth with



feelings of safety and security requires that sites be located in highly visible, accessible and populated public places. People like watching youth at play and youth like to feel the comfort of places with high degrees of public surveillance. Busy plazas, recreation and community centres, youth centres and schools that are in the public eye are good locations for youth recreation. Amenities such as washrooms, drinking fountains and lighting add to a sense of support and security. Rain/sun shelters, loop paths, and lots of different, interesting places to sit in small or larger groups, such as grassy knolls, seating nooks, and steep steps help to make all youth feel welcome.

## Strengths

- The skateboard park in McArthur Park is very popular and successful.
- The Kamloops Bike Ranch in Juniper is also very popular and successful.

## Challenges

- There are some concerns from neighbouring residents about the Bike Ranch, e.g., traffic, dust.
- There is demand for more youth parks, e.g., Dallas / Barnhartvale, Rayleigh / Heffley Creek, Westsyde.
- The BMX facility has less use than it would like.
- Biking at the McArthur Park skatepark has caused some conflicts.

## Recommendations

### Planning

- 5.7.1 Work with youth, including skateboarders, longboarders and bikers, and males and females, on all planning and design related to youth facilities in parks.

### Capital Development

- 5.7.2 Develop a major skateboard facility south of the river; potential locations include Exhibition Park (to replace the small one), Pioneer Park, or the former Aberdeen Golf Course.
- 5.7.3 Incorporate more neighbourhood-level bike skills and / or skateboard areas in communities, working with youth on the locations, designs, and regulations; potential locations include Dallas / Barnhartvale, Rayleigh / Heffley Creek, and Westsyde.

*“There are so many great places to go hiking and biking in Kamloops.”*



### **Operations and Management**

- 5.7.4 Work with skateboard park users at McArthur Park on ways to safely allow bike use of the skatepark, e.g., section for bikes, times for bikes.
- 5.7.5 Encourage more biking at the BMX club, and support the club in attracting more youth.
- 5.7.6 Work with longboarders to identify potential opportunities for accommodating this activity while addressing safety and liability concerns, e.g., closing roads to vehicles for special events.

## **5.8 Dog Activities**



Dog owners and their pets are a large and important user group and as the general population ages, pet ownership appears to increase. Pets often provide the impetus for people to visit parks, to exercise, and to socialize with others visiting the park. This in turn improves the health of both the individual pet owners and the community as a whole. Dog owners are often trying to meet multiple needs when visiting a park and may be trying to exercise their pets, get exercise themselves, and provide an outing for other family members at the same time.

On the other hand, the issues related to dogs in parks are complex, and include concerns about the impacts of dogs on ecologically sensitive areas and wildlife, the perception of safety for other users, public health, conflicts between dogs, and conflicts among dogs and other user groups on sidewalks and trails. Dog-related facilities are relatively inexpensive infrastructure compared to the benefits and the number of people served.



Kamloops provides a range of opportunities for dogs and their owners in parks. There are three dog off-leash parks, which are fenced and have some amenities, e.g., mowed grass, irrigation, waste dispensers, play tube, benches and tables, double gates, water (Westsyde riverfront), trails, trees, and one separate fenced area for small dogs defined by dimensions and weight (Aberdeen). Three beach areas in parks allow dogs – Mission Flats, Overlander Park, and Pioneer Park. There are also many parks that allow dogs “off-leash / under control” except in certain areas, e.g., playgrounds and sports fields. There are around 12 nature or open space parks where dogs are allowed on the trails.

Dogs are prohibited in certain parks, e.g., McArthur Island Park, Riverside Park (except along an assigned route), Prince Charles Park, and Albert McGowan Park. On the Rivers Trail, dogs must be on leash.



These two policies conflict in some locations, especially McArthur Island. Since dogs are prohibited in the park, dog walkers on the Rivers Trail need to take a major detour on a dog-unfriendly route along Tranquille Road to bypass the park.

Some communities are providing a significant dog off-leash area in each community and smaller dog off-leash areas in neighbourhoods, e.g., Surrey. In Kamloops, people walking dogs can access natural areas from most parts of the City, therefore dog exercise areas are not as important in outlying low density locations. There is also a significant amount of unregulated dog walking on school sites.

Requests related to lighting dog off-leash areas reflect two opposing viewpoints. There were some requests for lighting, but others like to see the stars.

### Strengths

- Dog walking is a very popular activity.
- There are many different types of opportunities for dogs.
- A number of public comments were made about Kamloops being a “dog friendly” City .
- A brochure and the website describe the regulations related to dog walking.

### Challenges

- Dog walking is controversial, and dogs generated the highest number of comments in the Web survey.
- The primary concern is lack of picking up waste; other concerns relate to use conflicts (mainly in Kenna Cartwright Park and Peterson Park, and in Dallas / Barnhartvale Nature Park to a lesser extent), and complaints about the section of Rivers Trail near the airport where many dogs are let off leash despite the rules.
- Requests were made for dog off-leash areas in Juniper Ridge (there is a temporary trial of dog off-leash use on the soccer field off season), Mount Dufferin, West End, more and larger dog off-leash parks for the City Centre, and along Rivers Trail near the airport.
- Requests to allow dogs on leash on the portion of Rivers Trail through McArthur Island Park were made.
- The Dog Friendly Parks brochure is out of date.

*“I LOVE how dog-friendly Kamloops is!!!!!!”*



## Recommendations

### *Capital Development*

- 5.8.1 Improve the character and amenities of dog off-leash areas in the City Centre.
- 5.8.2 Provide exercise areas for dogs (not necessarily fenced) in some neighbourhoods, striving to achieve a 10 minute walk to a dog off-leash area in populated locations, e.g., in Juniper Ridge, Mount Dufferin, and West End.
- 5.8.3 Install button-or motion-activated lighting in high use dog off-leash areas where the community supports this.

### *Operations and Management*

- 5.8.4 In the major nature parks, explore opportunities for trails that are designated for certain uses, e.g., no bikes or no dogs.
- 5.8.5 Allow dogs on leash along the portion of Rivers Trails from the pedestrian bridge to MacKenzie Avenue in McArthur Island Park.
- 5.8.6 Update the Dog Friendly Parks brochure.

## 5.9 Urban Agriculture



Urban Agriculture encompasses a wide range of sustainable food-producing activities within urban areas. It is a major trend in most communities due to growing interest in and awareness of local sustainable food systems, food security, climate change, and a desire to reconnect with food systems. In many municipalities, community gardens, farmer's markets, and education opportunities related to urban agriculture are growing.

Urban agriculture has numerous benefits including:

- Individual health and wellness
- Community health and wellness
- Local economic opportunities, e.g., Seattle's P Patch
- Recreation and leisure
- Educating the community to see agriculture as an integral part of urban life
- Environmental stewardship by restoring a connection to natural food systems
- Teaching children about healthy eating and meaningful physical activity

- Animation of parks with community gardens so visitors have increase feelings of security

Kamloops has been successful in developing the following components of urban agriculture based on a plan and many years of work in these areas:

- Farmer’s market (Saturday and Wednesday)
- Community garden program
- Community kitchen program
- Backyard gleaning program
- Foodshare program
- Food policies in the Kamloops Social Plan
- OCP policies in support of agriculture

“Surprises in the garden inspire people to enjoy a nibble when a crop is ready and inspire people to plan their own gardens” – Saanich Parks

In 2009 Council adopted the From Garden to Table Program, with a goal of doubling community garden plots from 142 to 284. The goal has been reached but the program will continue. There are various community gardens in Kamloops, four of which are on City land (Sahali Reservoir, Crestline, River Street, McArthur Island next to the Boys and Girls Club for youth). There are also two gardens at places of worship, some on private land, and one on provincial land. The community gardens, which are very popular, are all run by a non-profit organization, and they received special mention by Communities in Bloom.

In addition to the programs listed above, the Kamloops Food Policy Council has interest in demonstration edible gardens in public spaces, e.g., vegetables in Riverside Park planting beds. There are some precedents for this in other communities, e.g., Calgary, Saanich. The group is interested in using permanent edible plants such as edible perennials, fruiting shrubs and fruit trees in landscaped parks, with ornamental annual edibles in highly maintained areas. Forage plants (annuals and perennials) for pollinators and other beneficial (predator) insects are recommended. Edible plants need pollinators to develop fruit, and predator insects curb the use of pesticides.

### Strengths

- The Kamloops Food Policy Council promotes and supports urban agriculture in the City.
- Some successful community gardens and other forms of urban agriculture are well established.

*“Please consider community gardens or public produce accessible in parks.”*



- Very highly regarded Farmer’s Markets in the City are known far beyond Kamloops.

### Challenges

- Edible plants in public parks have not yet been planted, and the City has some concerns about this.



### Recommendations

#### Planning

- 5.9.1 Support the development of at least two permanent edible organic demonstration/public produce gardens in areas that are well used and highly visible to the public, in consultation with community groups and knowledgeable gardeners.
- 5.9.2 Work with others to identify a location for a community garden in the City Centre.

#### Operations and Management

- 5.9.3 Work with the Kamloops Food Policy Council on installing permanent edible plants such as edible perennials, fruiting shrubs and fruit trees, as well as ornamental annual edibles, in city-wide and community parks, and use these plots for demonstrations and education.



### 5.10 Winter Activities

Winter is a special time of year in Kamloops, and residents continue their outdoor recreation activities. There are five lacrosse boxes that are flooded for skating in winter (Westside, Pineview Valley, Heffley, Juniper, Thompson Park); these outdoor rinks are all managed by community groups, with the City providing water, keys and lights. There are many informal sledding hills, with Singh Bowl and Aberdeen as the most popular.

There is not much cross-country skiing within the developed part of the City, but there is a lot in the surrounding areas. It is only an option in the higher elevation parts of the City.

### Strengths

- Outdoor skating rinks and informal sledding hills are popular.



## Challenges

- It is difficult to make and maintain ice on the lacrosse boxes for skating.
- The infrastructure for sledding and skating is minimal, e.g., warm-up huts, washrooms, concessions.
- There is no formal sledding location.



## Recommendations

### *Planning*

5.10.1 Explore opportunities for more winter uses at Riverside Park as part of the Management Plan process.

### *Capital Development*

5.10.2 Develop at least two parks to support sledding, one north and one south of the Thompson River, e.g., Singh Street and former Aberdeen Golf Course, with infrastructure such as heated washrooms and warm-up huts, and provision for a mobile concession.

5.10.3 Include opportunities for cross-country skiing and skating in Aberdeen in addition to the sledding, potentially using the loop trail and the pond respectively.

### *Operations and Management*

5.10.4 Support a skating rink in Barnhartvale on the tennis court.

## 5.11 Other Park Amenities

There are other amenities located in parks, the most common of which are described here. Washrooms in parks are maintained from 7 am to 10 pm. Some are closed for the winter season. There are some informal picnic areas, but many are not shaded and facilities are minimal. Riverside Park is an exception, with picnic tables under large trees and the renovated kitchens that are rented to the public.



The City has been working to develop consistent branding and standards to consolidate park signs. There are many different types of site furniture in parks. Of particular interest to the public are memorial benches, available at a cost of \$2,800.



## Strengths

- The picnic areas in Riverside Park are very attractive and popular.
- Sign standards exist.
- The memorial bench program is popular.

## Challenges

- More washrooms would be beneficial, and some of the older ones are outdated and not very accessible.
- There are few attractive and comfortable picnic areas in other parks.
- Many signs are not consistent with the new standards, and there is a proliferation of different types of signs in some parks.
- The Memorial Bench Program does not include maintenance and replacement costs, nor does it specify a time frame for maintaining the bench.
- Bike racks are lacking in City-wide parks along the Rivers Trail.

## Recommendations

### *Planning*

5.11.1 Review the memorial bench promotional programs.

### *Capital Development*

5.11.2 Add and upgrade washrooms, improving accessibility in the process, and consider composting toilets where there is no water or sewer available.

5.11.3 Develop more picnic shelters with roofs as part of park upgrading, enhancement and new park development.

5.11.4 Integrate and upgrade signs to clearly identify park and trail locations, assist in way-finding, provide interpretive information and reduce the number of signs in each park.

5.11.5 Provide bike racks in city-wide parks along the Rivers Trail.

### *Operations and Management*

5.11.6 Plant more trees in city-wide and community parks to provide shaded picnic areas.





## 6.0 PARK MANAGEMENT

### 6.1 Parks Operations and Sustainability

Kamloops has been extremely progressive in its approach to parks operations. Sustainable practices in operations have been mandated by Council, especially in relation to the Tournament Capital Program. Sustainable practices include:

- hanging baskets with reservoirs
- Maxicom centralized irrigation system with three weather stations, so watering considers evapo-transpiration, which resulted in a 50% reduction in water use after it was installed
- electric ATV vehicles
- naturalization of some manicured areas (there was some resistance to this but educational signs helped with public acceptance)
- IPM coordinator to implement plans and educate the public
- brochures on website explaining sustainable operations

*“Maintenance and upkeep is the biggest challenge.”*



- composting program which involves collecting garden waste, composting it, using compost in parks, and selling the excess; the City is now working on opportunities to combine biosolids with the compost
- conversion of road medians to xeriscape using drought-tolerant plants; this avoids risks associated with mowing and it uses less water as a result of drip vs. spray irrigation (although road medians are not in the park inventory, they are maintained by Parks)

The City has many standards and best practices, e.g., ISA standards, WCB, IABC (irrigation), and Wildfire Management. These are implemented by the various operations crews.

Generally maintenance levels correlate with park classifications, e.g., city-wide parks receive more maintenance than community parks, and onwards down the hierarchy. Maintenance levels also relate to the types of facilities, e.g., sports fields have specific maintenance measures.

### Strengths

- Staff are appreciated for their operations work and have won numerous awards.
- The City follows sustainable practices in operations.
- Xeriscape road medians have been very successful and provide a character unique to Kamloops.
- The City uses many standards and best practices.
- Kamloops has received numerous awards from Communities in Bloom and was a winner of the 2010 Winterlights Celebration.

### Challenges

- The City's standards and best practices are on many separate lists and systems, not coordinated with each other.
- The public expressed concerns about litter along riverfronts.
- The public made comments about the need for better maintained paths and bike routes.
- The City and the School District have some similar maintenance responsibilities, but there is not much coordination of resources.





## Recommendations

### ***Operations and Management***

- 6.1.1 Prepare a system that lists and cross-references the City's standards and best practices.
- 6.1.2 Increase community participation in the maintenance of riverfront areas, e.g., litter removal, potentially with the assistance of park stewards, balancing needs for maintenance with protection environmental values.
- 6.1.3 Explore the possibility of increasing maintenance of paths and trails, including snow clearing.
- 6.1.4 Work with the School District on potential efficiencies related to coordinating maintenance resources.

## ***6.2 Management of Natural Areas***

Kamloops contains outstanding natural areas including rivers, grasslands, silt bluffs, and forests. Many of these natural areas are protected by other jurisdictions. For example, the Province manages Provincial Parks and Crown land around the City. Riverfront and riparian areas are protected by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and the Riparian Area Regulations.

The City has a Nature Park Division in its operations section, with technicians who work on trails, signs, mapping/way-finding, and wildfire interface management e.g., tree thinning to manage fuel.

The silt bluffs are particularly sensitive and hazardous, classified as a "red" zone in the Official Community Plan (OCP). The City is working to protect the environmental values, and there are many concerned and engaged citizens with environmental interests.

In some locations, there are challenges balancing environmental protection with recreational use. For example, Valleyview Nature Park allows bikes on designated trails, but some would like to see bike use prohibited in that park. Dogs are allowed off-leash in all nature parks. Although cacti deter dogs in some areas and grasslands generally tolerate dogs, there can be sensitive areas especially at certain times of the year, e.g., nesting seasons. There are significant opportunities to improve environmental protection and to enhance the experiences of park visitors through education and interpretive programs and information.



***"Acquiring more properties that contain natural wildlife habitat values and conserving those natural habitat values is important to me."***

*“If it’s a cool day I head for the grasslands. In hot weather, I go to the forested parks. On really hot days, I take my kids to one of the beaches. This is why I love Kamloops. We have everything.” - Resident*

## Strengths

- The Nature Park Division works hard on the protection of natural areas.
- The Kamloops Natural Areas Advisory Committee (KNAAC), with representatives of interest groups, has been formed to provide guidance on the management of nature parks.
- The silt bluffs are designated for their protection.
- The OCP identifies and designates environmentally sensitive areas as Development Permit areas.
- The provincial Protected Areas Strategy Team of the mid 1990s identified some critical sites within the City boundary.
- The City is embarking on a Greenways Plan which will address management of riparian areas.
- The City has a noxious weed program.

## Challenges

- Public comments stated that the City does not have enough of a role in the protection of critical and rare ecosystems, and that the City is located in under-represented and unprotected grassland and riverine ecosystems.
- There is no current and comprehensive inventory of the environmentally sensitive and significant lands (beyond the general areas identified in the OCP) hence these areas may be at risk from development and the growing recreational use.
- Some citizens are concerned about protection of the ecological values within and around Valleyview Nature Park, e.g., concern about the impacts of bikes.
- Residents are concerned about the low levels of maintenance, especially litter removal, along shorelines.

## Recommendations

### Planning

- 6.2.1 Encourage the City to conduct a comprehensive inventory of the environmentally sensitive and significant lands in the City, including vacant Crown land, and use this information to identify candidates for new nature parks.



6.2.2 In the absence of an environmentally sensitive area study, conduct an environmental overview of each park, noting the environmental resources, threats and appropriate management strategies. Determine the priority of these overviews based on the resources within the park and the degree of threat.

### ***Operations and Management***

- 6.2.3 Review the impacts of off-leash dogs in nature parks, and require leashes as needed to manage impacts, e.g., seasonal leashing in defined areas or parks.
- 6.2.4 Review the impacts of bikes in nature parks, especially Valleyview Nature Park, and change management strategies if necessary.
- 6.2.5 Place a high priority on sustainability and ecological integrity in managing vegetation, using native plants where possible, especially for restoration of disturbed areas.
- Restore native vegetation in natural areas where it has been disturbed, e.g., at entrances.
  - Emphasize biodiversity protection in managing plant communities and any habitats supporting wildlife of conservation concern.
  - Protect and restore the ecological integrity of riparian areas wherever there are no waterfront activities, e.g., beach or boat launch.
- 6.2.6 Expand environmental and cultural interpretive programs and information, including signs, brochures, Website information, and smartphone applications.
- 6.2.7 Work with the Province and others on the management and potential park development of Crown and other land that has environmental and recreation values, e.g., grasslands, Rabbit Island.
- 6.2.8 Consider an Adopt-a-Shoreline program.



## ***6.3 Management of Urban Forests***

Trees in cities provide residents with links to the natural world, contributing to individual and community health and well-being. Properly managed urban forests also provide multiple services to city residents. Cleaner air and water, cooler temperatures, healthier watercourses, wildlife habitat, energy savings and higher property values are among the many benefits cited in numerous studies. With proper management, these benefits increase every year as trees grow.





The natural forest stands and non-indigenous trees in the City of Kamloops and the surrounding region have been negatively affected by infestations of mountain pine beetle, western pine beetle, spruce budworm, and Douglas-fir tussock moth. The City is working with local and provincial forest health professionals in an ongoing management program for all of these forest insects.

The number of trees in the urban forest in Kamloops is below average when compared with other cities. The recent devastation wreaked by the pine beetle has further decimated the urban forest. Through Operation Re-Leaf, the City has fulfilled a goal to plant 20,000 trees over four years with capital funds. The City maintains trees in City parks and cemeteries, and also on City boulevards on the sites of public facilities.

The City encourages tree planting by residents through a number of tree planting programs. At Arbour Day, a program in cooperation with local garden centres provides \$20 coupons to the public for the purchase of trees. Through the Aspen Tree Planting Program, the City will provide aspens if residents will plant and water them. The Boulevard Tree Planting Program involves neighbourhoods applying for trees, which the City will plant if residents will irrigate them. Finally, memorial trees can be purchased for planting in the Kamloops Community Forest.

There are no policies requiring trees in new developments, e.g., nothing in the subdivision control bylaw, no Tree Protection Bylaw. Trees in new developments are planted at the discretion of individual residents, and people need to request them. Currently this happens through an agreement between the developer and the property owner, similar to a building scheme.



### Strengths

- The City's tree planting programs are excellent.
- Communities in Bloom judges awarded Kamloops the Outstanding Achievement Award for Urban Forestry (and the Best Blooming Community Designation) for 2010.

### Challenges

- Parts of the City have minimal tree cover.
- There is no bylaw requiring planting or replacement of trees in new developments.



## Recommendations

### Planning

- 6.3.1 Preserve existing stands of indigenous trees in new developments and whenever possible rezone to Open Space (OS).
- 6.3.2 Work with Planning on ways to increase the requirements for tree planting and tree replacement in new developments.
- 6.3.3 Review and update the Urban Forest Management Plan.
- 6.3.4 Consolidate and enhance the portions of existing bylaws that relate to trees and prepare a Tree Protection Bylaw.

## 6.4 Managing Use of Park Lands

This section addresses a variety of topics related to managing uses that occur in parks.

### Recreation and Sports Programs and Services

Many community and school sports programs use the sports fields and other facilities in parks. In addition, the City Recreation program holds some classes in parks, e.g., pole walking in Riverside Park. There are also summer programs for children, e.g., Art in the Park, Theatre in the Park.

### Commercial Uses

The City has a mobile vendor program for special events, e.g., Canada Day, Terry Fox Run, Run for the Cure, wakeboard competitions. Vendors are permitted to set up display booths and sell goods in the park if they have a business license and obtain a permit. Other than this, the City does not have a clear policy on commercial uses in parks, and proposals are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

The web survey showed that residents are sensitive about commercial activities in parks, but there is some support for private rentals, concessions/cafes, and fees for commercial uses.

Various jurisdictions have been investigating and implementing measures which generate revenue in parks. Vancouver's Park Board has found pay parking to be the most significant revenue generator by far among the various revenue-generation tools they use. Pay parking in parks is often controversial, and support for it was low in the Kamloops web survey. Some jurisdictions use limited pay parking as a management method, e.g., to encourage alternative transportation,

*"Parks should be available without any fees or charges to allow everyone to enjoy the outdoors and to encourage outdoor activity and appreciation. Private rentals would be ok if they were regulated (to prevent misuse) and were still open to the public."*



to limit the length of stay in highly popular parks, to generate revenue from those who want the luxury of parking close to their destination.

Metro Vancouver has been investigating opportunities related to “enhanced park services” to expand the range of outdoor recreation opportunities while generating non-tax revenue streams. Enhanced park services are defined as value-added services or facilities provided for a fee, involving individual or group exclusive use, or services requiring additional capital and operation resources beyond basic park services.

Enhanced services may be provided commercially through a business agreement with the private or non-profit sectors. Examples of this type of revenue generation include: rental of picnic shelters or areas for private events, rental or leasing of buildings to non-profit or commercial groups (sometimes as joint ventures), food services, rental of equipment (e.g., canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, bicycles, event tents), commercial activities or services (e.g., dog washing), charging for the use of parks for filming or commercial classes (e.g., fitness, bike tours, dog obedience classes), and smartphone applications.



### Special Events

Riverside Park is the major events park in Kamloops, and charity events, Canada Day, Memorial Day, Music in the Park (every evening in the summer), and weddings all take place there. MacDonald Park also has Music in the Park every summer evening, and day camp programs for children. Prince Charles Park supports Theatre in the Park and other arts programs. The various athletic parks host tournaments.

The City Recreation program helps to support special events in parks, and Parks operations is responsible for set-up, maintenance support, and take-down. The City has a budget, staff and experience managing special events. Organizing groups meet with the City a week in advance to confirm arrangements.

### Special Interest Groups

From time to time, special interest groups approach the City for permission to use park lands for a variety of activities. Sometimes the City accepts these requests, and at other times, they are declined. Some examples of special use areas in parks resulting from such requests include the remote control car racer’s club behind Valleyview Arena, the gas model airplane club at Rose Hill Park, the electric model airplane group at Dufferin Park, large remote control boats at Aberdeen Park, and smaller remote control boats at McArthur Island.

## Social Concerns

During the consultation process for this plan, numerous concerns were expressed about safety and security in parks, not just in the downtown area, but in many neighbourhoods. Social concerns can be addressed partly through monitoring and policing, and also through CPTED and park planning. Currently \$500,000 is spent every five years on a community project, and some of these projects help to address social concerns. The Social Plan of 2009 also has recommendations on this topic.

## Information

Kamloops has individual park brochures for some of the major parks, especially the large nature parks, but there is no Parks brochure or map showing all parks and trails (North Vancouver and West Vancouver have good examples of this). This is a potential advertising opportunity. The public expressed significant interest in such a map, as well as way-finding markers, distance markers on trails, etc. There are also opportunities for social media integration, e.g., smart phone applications. Some municipalities have extensive information on their parks and trails available through “apps”, e.g., Whistler.

## Strengths

- The City has excellent services related to organizing and managing special events which enliven the community.

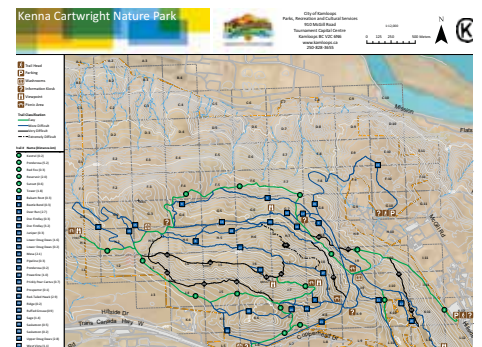
## Challenges

- The public has indicated interest in more summer programs for children in parks.
- The City is reactive to special interest groups, rather than acting according to established procedures.
- Kamloops lacks of a clear map of all parks (showing major facilities) and trails.

## Recommendations

### Planning

- 6.4.1 Establish a policy and procedures regarding commercial uses in parks, based on the principles that parks are for everyone and that new uses must add value and enhance the overall experience of park users.



### ***Operations and Management***

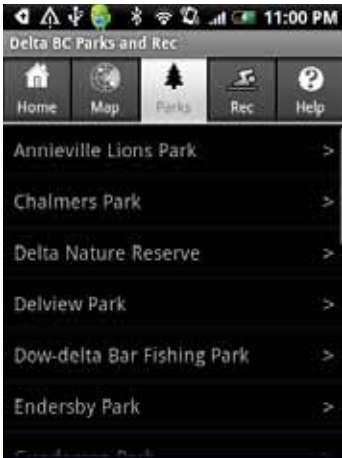
6.4.2 Adopt criteria to be applied when special interest groups request permission to use park lands, including:

- Potential impact on other park users and resources
- Potential interest to other park users
- Amount of space required
- Potential alternate uses of the space
- Potential environmental impacts

6.4.3 Work with the police and other social service agencies on social concerns in parks in accordance with the recommendations of the Social Plan.

6.4.4 Publish a clear and comprehensive map of all parks (showing major facilities) and trails, available throughout the community (with potential for advertising).

6.4.5 Develop computer/ smart phone applications for way-finding and to publicize events in parks on social media.







## 7.0 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

### ***7.1 Financial and Phasing Plan***

The financial and phasing plan identifies the priorities, phasing, and relative costs related to implementation of the recommendations in the Parks Master Plan. Figure 7.1 lists all of the recommendations in this Plan, some of which are abbreviated to fit on the table. The recommendations are listed within the structure of the four headings that relate to implementation:

- Planning
- Capital Development
- Operations and Management

Many of the recommendations are already addressed by allocations in the 5-year Capital Plan, however the amounts allocated may need adjustment.

The following is a key to the ratings on the table:

**Priority**

- 1 – relatively high
- 2 - medium
- 3 – lower (but still important)

**Phasing**

- Short – within 3 years
- Medium – 4 – 6 years
- Long – 7 – 10 years
- Ongoing

**Approximate Cost**

- n/a – can be handled by staff
- Low – under \$100,000
- Moderate - \$100,000 - \$750,000
- High – over \$750,000
- Variable

Note: capital project costs are per project; ongoing costs are on an annual basis

Key Recommendations		Priority	Phasing	Relative Cost
<b>Planning</b>				
4.1.1	Integrate the new parkland classification system into other City documents as appropriate, and use it as a tool when planning and managing parks.	1	Short	n/a
4.1.2	Review the zoning of parks, and revise it to be consistent with the new classification system.	2	Med	Low
4.2.1	Adopt parkland acquisition standards to guide the acquisition of parkland in developing areas.	1	Short	n/a
4.2.2	Adopt parkland acquisition criteria to guide the acquisition of parkland in developed areas.	1	Short	n/a
4.2.3	Explore opportunities to exchange existing unused and/or undeveloped parkland for better parkland.	2	Ongoing	n/a
4.2.4	Increase the maintenance budget as parks are developed and upgraded and as additional open space is acquired.	1	Ongoing	Variable
5.1.1	Involve the community in parks planning and design processes, soliciting input on the amenities desired in parks.	1	Ongoing	n/a
5.1.2	Work with Community Associations and other stakeholders, and support them in building up their own capacity.	1	Ongoing	n/a
5.2.1	Plan and design parks to address a wide range of community interests.	1	Ongoing	n/a
5.2.2	Prepare Master Plans for major new parks, including: former Aberdeen Golf Course, Jimeva Park, Skyline Park, Dufferin Park expansion.	1, 2	Short Medium	Low Medium
5.2.3	Prepare Management Plans for existing parks that have high potential in relation to their current condition.	1, 2	Short Medium	Low Medium



Key Recommendations		Priority	Phasing	Relative Cost
5.3.1	Coordinate new trail corridor acquisition and trail development in parks with the Trails Master Plan.	1	Ongoing	n/a
5.5.1	Work in partnership with the School District to determine how to offer the greatest benefits to the community in relation to the use of school sports fields and school grounds.	1	Ongoing	n/a
5.5.2	Work with soccer on scheduling in order to maximize the use of sports fields within the capacity of the fields.	1	Short	n/a
5.5.3	Work with neighbourhoods to maximize the uses and benefits of courts.	2	Ongoing	n/a
5.5.4	Monitor the use of the pickleball courts to determine if more should be constructed.	2	Ongoing	n/a
5.6.1	Work with communities and neighbourhoods to determine their specific interests in play and outdoor exercise amenities.	1	Ongoing	n/a
5.7.1	Work with youth, including skateboarders, longboarders, and bikers, on all planning and design related to youth facilities in parks.	1	Ongoing	n/a
5.9.1	Support the development of at least two permanent edible organic demonstration/public produce gardens.	1	Ongoing	n/a
5.9.2	Work with others to identify a location for a community garden in the City Centre.	2	Medium	n/a
5.10.1	Explore opportunities for more winter uses at Riverside Park as part of the Management Plan process.	1	Short	n/a
5.11.1	Review the memorial bench promotional programs.	2	Medium	n/a
6.2.1	Encourage the City to conduct a comprehensive inventory of the environmentally sensitive and significant lands in the City, and use this information to identify candidates for new nature parks.	2	Medium	Medium
6.2.2	In the absence of an environmentally sensitive area study, conduct an environmental overview of each park.	1	Ongoing	Variable
6.3.1	Preserve existing stands of indigenous trees in new developments and whenever possible rezone to Open Space (OS).	1	Ongoing	n/a
6.3.2	Work with Planning on ways to increase the requirements for tree planting and tree replacement in new developments.	1	Ongoing	n/a
6.3.3	Review and update the Urban Forest Management Plan.	2	Medium	Low
6.3.4	Consolidate and enhance the portions of existing bylaws that relate to trees and prepare a Tree Protection Bylaw.	2	Medium	Low
6.4.1	Establish a policy and procedures regarding commercial uses in parks.	1	Short	n/a
<b>Capital Development</b>				
5.2.4	Develop new parks, including former Aberdeen Golf Course, Jimeva Park, Skyline Park, Dufferin Park expansion.	1	Short Medium	Medium High
5.2.5	Upgrade the following parks: Brocklehurst Park, Exhibition Park, MacDonald Park, Overlander Park, Prince Charles Park, Raemor Park, Riverside Park, Rose Hill Park, Westsyde Centennial Park.	1	Short Medium	Variable
5.2.6	Enhance parks to increase opportunities (see Appendix C for a list of potential enhancements).	1, 2	Short Medium	Low



Key Recommendations		Priority	Phasing	Relative Cost
5.3.2	Build loop trails around parks that are connected to the pedestrian/bike networks, e.g., Riverside Park, TCC Ranch, and Westsyde Centennial.	2	Medium	Low
5.3.3	Work with Tk'emlups Indian Band and CNR on trail connections north to Rayleigh and southeast of the Halston Bridge.	2	Medium	Medium
5.6.2	Build more water parks so that they are distributed throughout the City in city-wide and community parks (three to the north, four to the south, three large).	1, 2	Short Medium	Low Medium
5.6.3	Upgrade McDonald Park water park.	1	Medium	Medium
5.6.4	Continue renewal of two play areas per years as budget allows.	1	Ongoing	Low Medium
5.6.5	If outdoor exercise equipment is desired, locate it in the south of the City in a high-use park.	3	Long	Low
5.6.6	Work in partnership with the School District to upgrade their play areas in neighbourhoods lacking in City-owned park space.	2	Ongoing	Low Medium
5.7.2	Develop a major skateboard facility south of the river.	3	Long	Medium
5.7.3	Incorporate more neighbourhood-level bike skills and / or skateboard areas in communities.	1, 2	Short Medium	Low
5.8.1	Improve the character and amenities of the dog off-leash areas in the City Centre.	1, 2	Short Medium	Medium
5.8.2	Provide exercise areas for small dogs (not necessarily fenced) in some neighbourhoods.	1, 2	Short Medium	Low
5.8.3	Install button-or motion-activated lighting in high use dog off-leash areas where the community supports this.	2	Medium	Medium
5.10.2	Develop at least two parks to support sledding, one north and one south of the Thompson River.	1, 2	Short Medium	Low
5.10.3	Include opportunities for cross-country skiing and skating in Aberdeen.	1, 2	Short Medium	Medium
5.11.2	Add and upgrade washrooms, improving accessibility in the process.	1, 2	Short Medium	Medium
5.11.3	Develop more picnic shelters with roofs as part of park upgrading, enhancement and new park development.	1, 2	Short Medium	Medium
5.11.4	Integrate and upgrade signs to identify park and trail locations, assist in way-finding, and provide interpretive information .	1	Short Medium	Low
5.11.5	Provide bike racks in city-wide parks along the Rivers Trail.	1	Short	Low
<b>Operations and Management</b>				
5.3.4	Work with land owners adjacent to trails to make access points available.	1, 2	Ongoing	Low
5.3.5	Ensure that trails are maintained to support the level of use, considering an Adopt-a-Trail program.	1	Ongoing	Low
5.4.1	Conduct planning to explore options for increasing parking capacity at or near the boat launch in Pioneer Park.	2	Medium	Medium
5.4.2	Explore new boat launch options and some smaller launches for non-motorized boats.	2	Medium	Medium
5.4.3	Explore more beach opportunities, including as a partnership with Tk'emlups.	2	Medium	Medium





Key Recommendations		Priority	Phasing	Relative Cost
5.7.4	Work with skateboard park users at McArthur Park on ways to safely allow bike use of the skatepark.	1	Short	n/a
5.7.5	Encourage more biking at the BMX club, and support the club in attracting more youth.	1	Short	n/a
5.7.6	Work with longboarders to identify ways to accommodate this activity while addressing safety and liability concerns.	1	Short	n/a
5.8.4	In the major nature parks, explore opportunities for trails that are designated for certain uses, e.g., no bikes or no dogs.	2	Medium	n/a
5.8.5	Allow dogs on leash along the portion of Rivers Trails from the pedestrian bridge to MacKenzie Avenue in McArthur Island Park.	1	Short	n/a
5.8.6	Update the Dog Friendly Parks brochure.	1	Short	Low
5.9.3	Work with the Kamloops Food Policy Council on installing permanent edible plants in city-wide and community parks.	1	Short	Low
5.10.4	Support a skating rink in Barnhartvale on the tennis court.	2	Medium	n/a
5.11.6	Plant more trees in city-wide and community parks to provide shaded picnic areas.	1	Ongoing	Low
6.1.1	Prepare a system that lists and cross-references the City's standards and best practices.	1	Short	Low
6.1.2	Increase community participation in the maintenance of riverfront areas.	1	Short	n/a
6.1.3	Explore the possibility of increasing maintenance of paths and trails, including snow clearing along sidewalks and major routes.	1	Short	High
6.1.4	Work with the School District on potential efficiencies related to coordinating maintenance resources.	2	Medium	n/a
6.2.3	Review the impacts of off-leash dogs in nature parks, and require leashes as needed to manage impacts.	2	Medium	Low
6.2.4	Review the impacts of bikes in nature parks, especially Valleyview Nature Park, and change management strategies if necessary.	2	Medium	Low
6.2.5	Place a high priority on sustainability and ecological integrity in managing vegetation.	1	Ongoing	Low
6.2.6	Expand environmental and cultural interpretive programs and information.	2	Medium	Low
6.2.7	Work with the Province and others on the management and potential park development of Crown and other land.	1	Ongoing	n/a
6.4.2	Adopt criteria to be applied when special interest groups request permission to use park lands.	1	Short	n/a
6.4.3	Work with the police and other social service agencies on social concerns in parks per the Social Plan.	1	Ongoing	n/a
6.4.4	Publish a clear and comprehensive map of all parks and trails, available throughout the community.	1	Short	Low
6.4.5	Develop computer/ smart phone applications for way-finding and to publicize events in parks on social media.	2	Medium	Low

**Figure 7.1 Phasing and Costs Table**



## 7.2 Financial Strategies

Most of the funding for parks planning, development and operations comes from the City's capital budget, as outlined in the five-year Capital Plan, and operating budgets. The primary sources of City funds are taxes, development cost charges (DCCs), grants, and contributions from developers. Other lesser sources include private donations or bequests, sports field user fees and commercial revenues (see section 6.4). The Trails Master Plan identifies potential funds and grants that support trail construction, some of which can also be used for park construction.

The following are some other potential financing strategies that have been identified in Kamloops:

- Hotel Tax – Sport Tourism currently receives the revenue from the Hotel Tax, but perhaps some of it could go towards park development
- Review the fees and charges policy
- Expand sponsorship opportunities, e.g., major events, brochures, maps, naming rights
- Increase partnerships, e.g., with community groups, Music in the Park, movie nights, Kamloops Daily News Boogie the Bridge, Kamloops International Bantam Ice Hockey Tournament (KIBIHT), BCLC Lottery
- Consider limited commercial uses, e.g., restaurant, more in-house food services
- Increase marketing, e.g., Kamloops has world class farmer's markets that could receive benefit from more promotion
- Expand pay parking at parks and sports fields, e.g., premium parking for events, free parking time limits – this would not be popular, however it could help to reduce driving
- Sell advertising, e.g., signs on sports fields, QR codes



	Physical Criteria	Add or Enhance	Reduce or Detract	Neutral/ No Effect	Comment
1	How will it affect the amount of environmental habitat?				
2	How will it affect the quality of environmental resources on site?				
3	How will it affect the quality of environmental resources off site?				
4	How will it affect opportunities for environmental interpretation?				
5	How will it affect heritage/cultural resources?				
6	How will it affect aesthetics and park character/atmosphere?				
7	How will it affect safety and security, and address risks?				
8	How will it affect existing park users?				
9	How will it affect opportunities for healthy activity/recreation?				
10	How will it affect the number of ways the park can be used?				
11	How will it affect the number of people served?				
12	How will it affect the types of people served (physical challenges, cultural groups, etc.)?				
13	How will it affect accessibility?				
14	How will it affect the quality of the park infrastructure (assets)?				
15	How will it affect the sustainability of site services (e.g., rainwater management)?				
	Administrative Criteria	Yes	No	Neither/ Not Sure	Comment
16	Is the capital cost low?				
17	Is there capital money available?				
18	Is the operations cost low?				
19	Is there operations money available?				
20	Does it require other investment (e.g., transportation works, utilities)?				
21	Are there long-term costs?				
22	Will it generate revenue?				
23	Will revenue cover capital and operational costs?				
24	Are there opportunity costs associated with not going forward?				
25	Does staff have the expertise to manage this?				
26	Does staff have time available to manage it and meet expectations and needs?				
27	Is it something the City would rather take on itself (e.g., programs)?				
28	Is there time sensitivity (window of opportunity)?				
29	Does it limit future options?				
30	Is there community support?				
31	Is there Council support?				
32	Will the benefits be long-term?				
33	Will it help to build partnerships?				

**Figure 7.2 Decision-making Criteria**



### 7.3 Criteria for Decision-Making



City staff and Council are often presented with ideas and opportunities related to parks that require decisions. The ideas and opportunities relate to a broad range of potential proposals. Some involve the contribution of funds or expertise. Many have some type of “conditions” which require negotiation. These ideas fall into the following general categories:

- Land acquisition, protection and disposition
- Infrastructure development, upgrading and demolition
- Park use, including individual, non-profit group, and commercial uses/revenue generation
- Stewardship, community involvement and partnerships

In making decisions related to parks and their use, Council will be guided in the future by the Parks Master Plan; however, the Master Plan may not be specific enough to serve as decision-making criteria.

Figure 7.2 provides a set of questions to be used as decision-making criteria. For each question, there is an opportunity to consider if there will be a positive or a negative result. Each proposal needs to be evaluated in terms of its benefits and costs in the short-term and the long-term.

The purpose of the decision-making criteria is to have a consistent method with which to identify the benefits and challenges related to proposals. The decision-making criteria can also be used to improve potential opportunities. For example, once the challenges are identified, measures that mitigate potential impacts can be included in the project.

The table is intended to be used in a qualitative rather than a quantitative way. The intent is not to add up the number of positive and negative responses, since some criteria may differ in importance and impact in each evaluation process.

### 7.4 Staff Capacity



Over the past several years, Parks has made an effort to hire staff who are qualified in specific areas of expertise. There are now over 90 staff in Parks, 50 of whom have some schooling and certificates. The following is a summary of the job types and their requirements:

- Management and Planning – parks planner, parks operations supervisor, parks planning and project supervisor with appropriate professional credentials





- Crew Leader - including Irrigation, Horticulture, Turf, Nature Parks, Arboriculture and Amenities, Diploma minimum with additional certificates depending on the specialty
- Gardener 1 and 2 - certificate and diploma minimum, respectively, with pesticide applicators
- Nature Park Technicians - certificate minimum
- Irrigation Technicians - certificate minimum with IIABC Level 1 certification
- IPM Coordinator - diploma minimum with pesticide applicators and noxious weed certifications
- Arborist 1 and 2 - certificate and diploma respectively and ISA certification
- Equipment Operator 2 - Class 3 minimum



There are also 40 labourer positions. These are considered important, as labourers deal with the public first hand and are entry level jobs with the City. High standards are applied at the interviewing and hiring stages for this position as most labourers advance to full-time work in Streets, Utilities or other departments.

The City is extremely well staffed due to the Tournament Capital Program. Responsibilities are clear, and the City is commended by the community for its response to public requests and concerns. Parks staff work closely with others in the department, e.g., Arts and Culture Group.

## ***7.5 Stewardship and Community Involvement***

Members of the community are very involved in volunteer work that contributes to parks and the activities taking place in parks. There are 38 organizations representing sports groups such as soccer, slo-pitch, baseball, football, fastball, lacrosse, track and field, ultimate, roller derby, and other sports clubs. There are 13 community and neighbourhood associations. Groups also represent specific parks (e.g., McDonald Park, Kenna Cartwright, Peterson Creek, Valleyview) and special interests (e.g., stewardship/naturalists, urban agriculture, mountain bikers, arts and culture). City staff nurture their relationships with these groups, assist the groups in building their capacity, and support the respective groups. There are regular meetings with sports user groups and a dedicated staff person maintains contact with the other community volunteer groups.



The City also has two volunteer committees that provide input on planning and managing parks. The Parks and Recreation Committee is a long-established group that meets regularly to provide input on



parks and recreation. The Kamloops Natural Areas Advisory Committee (KNAAC) is a new group representing a full range of nature park interests. Their role is to work collaboratively on providing advice related to the management of natural areas.

The volunteers make tremendous contributions to the City. They help to create a sense of community, they support others in achieving healthy lifestyles, they help to protect environmental values, and they provide labour, time and materials on their projects.

## **7.6 Measurable Benchmarks and Reporting on Outcomes**

A Master Plan needs to be evaluated regularly to determine if its objectives and recommendations are being achieved. Kamloops has a number of tools in place for this type of evaluation. A community survey is conducted every three years, and the survey includes questions on parks.

In the past, annual reports were prepared by each department to track accomplishments and revise plans for the next year. The annual reporting did not occur for the past few years, but it is about to be initiated again.

Parks staff keep track of comments received from the public. The comments are good indicators of operations and management processes.

These three tools, the community survey, annual reports, and tracking of public comments, are considered sufficient for measuring the implementation of the PMP. It will be important to integrate the recommendations of the PMP into these respective tools.

The purpose of measuring and reporting is to track the implementation of the Master Plan. It is also to retain Kamloops as an “oasis of activity” that is a source of so much pride among residents, Council and staff.



## APPENDIX A: SUPPLEMENTARY WEB SURVEY RESPONSES

1. Given that the City will be unable to make all improvements right way, please indicate how important each of the following is to you:

The following tables show the results for each potential improvement cross-referenced with respondents' area of the City:

### Build more walkways or trails?

Area of City	Important Percent	Unimportant Percent	Don't Know / No Experience
City Centre, West End	85%	10%	5%
East of City Centre (Valleyview, Barnhartvale, Dallas, Rose Hill, Campbell Creek, Juniper)	66%	21%	14%
North Shore, Brocklehurst, Batchelor Heights, Westsyde	74%	19%	7%
Upper and Lower Sahali, Aberdeen, South Gate, Mount Dufferin, Pineview Valley, Versatile	73%	23%	5%
<b>City Average</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>7%</b>

### Acquire more parkland?

Area of City	Important Percent	Unimportant Percent	Don't Know / No Experience
City Centre, West End	76%	17%	7%
East of City Centre (Valleyview, Barnhartvale, Dallas, Rose Hill, Campbell Creek, Juniper)	62%	31%	7%
North Shore, Brocklehurst, Batchelor Heights, Westsyde	80%	13%	7%
Upper and Lower Sahali, Aberdeen, South Gate, Mount Dufferin, Pineview Valley, Versatile	72%	22%	6%
<b>City Average</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>7%</b>



### Upgrade existing parks?

Area of City	Important Percent	Unimportant Percent	Don't Know / No Experience
City Centre, West End	69%	28%	3%
East of City Centre (Valleyview, Barnhartvale, Dallas, Rose Hill, Campbell Creek, Juniper)	46%	36%	18%
North Shore, Brocklehurst, Batchelor Heights, Westsyde	66%	27%	7%
Upper and Lower Sahali, Aberdeen, South Gate, Mount Dufferin, Pineview Valley, Versatile	79%	19%	2%
<b>City Average</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>6%</b>

### Make improvements related to park use?

Area of City	Important Percent	Unimportant Percent	Don't Know / No Experience
City Centre, West End	57%	24%	19%
East of City Centre (Valleyview, Barnhartvale, Dallas, Rose Hill, Campbell Creek, Juniper)	46%	36%	18%
North Shore, Brocklehurst, Batchelor Heights, Westsyde	55%	40%	5%
Upper and Lower Sahali, Aberdeen, South Gate, Mount Dufferin, Pineview Valley, Versatile	61%	23%	17%
<b>City Average</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>15%</b>

### Improve maintenance?

Area of City	Important Percent	Unimportant Percent	Don't Know / No Experience
City Centre, West End	36%	41%	23%
East of City Centre (Valleyview, Barnhartvale, Dallas, Rose Hill, Campbell Creek, Juniper)	39%	36%	25%
North Shore, Brocklehurst, Batchelor Heights, Westsyde	47%	47%	7%
Upper and Lower Sahali, Aberdeen, South Gate, Mount Dufferin, Pineview Valley, Versatile	59%	31%	10%
<b>City Average</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>14%</b>



### Provide more recreation facilities?

Area of City	Important Percent	Unimportant Percent	Don't Know / No Experience
City Centre, West End	38%	43%	20%
East of City Centre (Valleyview, Barnhartvale, Dallas, Rose Hill, Campbell Creek, Juniper)	28%	45%	28%
North Shore, Brocklehurst, Batchelor Heights, Westsyde	47%	44%	9%
Upper and Lower Sahali, Aberdeen, South Gate, Mount Dufferin, Pineview Valley, Versatile	41%	51%	9%
<b>City Average</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>14%</b>

### Develop new or upgrade outdoor sports fields?

Area of City	Important Percent	Unimportant Percent	Don't Know / No Experience
City Centre, West End	28%	43%	30%
East of City Centre (Valleyview, Barnhartvale, Dallas, Rose Hill, Campbell Creek, Juniper)	19%	56%	26%
North Shore, Brocklehurst, Batchelor Heights, Westsyde	39%	50%	11%
Upper and Lower Sahali, Aberdeen, South Gate, Mount Dufferin, Pineview Valley, Versatile	31%	55%	13%
<b>City Average</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>18%</b>

## 2. Do you have any other comments or suggestions regarding the Parks Master Plan?

The largest number of comments related opposition to the parkade on Lorne Street. Many positive comments about the parks were provided. There were several positive and negative comments about the survey. Other comments covered a wide range of topics.



### 3. In which area of the City do you live?

Area of City	Response Percent
Upper and Lower Sahali, Aberdeen, South Gate, Mount Dufferin, Pineview Valley, Versatile	41%
North Shore, Brocklehurst, Batchelor Heights, Westsyde	24%
City Centre, West End	20%
East of City Centre (Valleyview, Barnhartvale, Dallas, Rose Hill, Campbell Creek, Juniper)	15%

### 4. What is your age bracket?

Age Bracket	Response Percent	Demographic Percent
19 or younger	1%	21%
20-29	9%	14%
30-39	28%	12%
40-59	42%	30%
60-69	16%	12%
70 or over	3%	11%

Age Bracket Summary	Response Percent
Under 40	38%
Over 40	62%

### 5. Which best describes your household situation at this time?

Household Situation	Response Percent
Couple with dependent children at home	40%
Couple with no dependent children at home	38%
Person living alone	9%
Live with other related or unrelated adults	9%
Other living situation (please describe)	2%
Single parent with child/children at home	1%

6. Do you own one or more dogs?

Dog Ownership	Response Percent
Yes	42.0%
No	58.0%

In addition to this summary, the City has the raw response data available, as well as the verbatim comments to open-ended questions.



## APPENDIX B: SUPPLEMENTARY FOCUS GROUP RESPONSES

Participants were invited to provide input on their ideas for the vision of the Plan, and strategies and recommendations they would like included in the Plan. These were generated by the audience through discussion. These are listed here in order of priority based on “voting” through with an audience response system, in which each participant voted on their top three priorities.

### *Public Workshop*

#### **Vision**

- 1 Protect the integrity of wild spaces and natural parks and protect/increase parkland
- 2 Better integration of urban and recreational activities – connectivity, alternative transportation
- 3 Sustainable environmental policies – e.g., for insects, bees, ecosystem health
- 4 Neighbourhood-based parks
- 5 Appeal to as large an audience as possible
- 6 All activities enhance the park or enjoyment of the user
- 7 Universal accessibility
- 8 Retreat from urban life stresses
- 9 Enhance quality of life, e.g., edible plants

#### **Strategies and Recommendations**

1. Acquire property or acquire rights-of-way with existing trails – proactively
2. Connected parks and trails along the river
3. Work with community associations, empower citizens, stewardship
4. Restoration of creeks, natural drainage, erosion
5. Sustainable landscape plants – edible, xeriscape, forage, insects, reflect Kamloops landscape
6. More skills parks – bikes, exercise
7. More art, culture, history in parks with First Nations, education
8. More green infrastructure
9. More all-season use, e.g., skating on Mac Island slough, clean it up, non-motor boats

### *Sports and PACs*

#### **Vision**

1. Facilities based on future participation
2. Accessibility
3. Dedication to continued sports development
4. Higher quality of school sites





5. Encourage continued participation
6. City liaison for sports
7. Shade
8. Connected trail system
9. Hierarchy of fields/teams

### **Strategies and Recommendations**

1. Lights on fields
2. Washroom accessibility and upkeep, recycling bins
3. More sports fields
4. Improve school sites then maintain better
5. Improve trails to schools
6. More camping, incl at Rayleigh
7. Another indoor field
8. Parking
9. Another artificial turf field

## **Youth**

### **School Site Strengths (youth only)**

- Good for all age groups (elementary and secondary)
- Secure (fences)
- Variety of courts and fields

### **School Site Challenges (youth only)**

- Not well maintained, e.g., pavement bumpy and cracked, poor field condition, grass not regularly cut, in bad shape, track is in poor condition, sprinkler heads are a hazard
- Not a great variety
- Lack of bleachers or venues to draw more spectators
- Smoke pit, litter, cigarette butts

### **Strategies and Recommendations**

1. Better maintenance of school sites including sports fields
2. More sport courts
3. Security cameras and lighting
4. Youth parks in addition to Mac Park



5. Outdoor pool on south side of river
6. More group gathering areas
7. More dog friendly trails
8. More benches along paths
9. Better transit to parks

### ***Community Associations Workshop***

#### **Vision**

1. Ecosystem protection
2. Connectivity of parks and trails
3. Variety of parks in each community
4. Interpretation and education
5. Neighbourhood-based facilities
6. More structure re: park types
7. Multiple uses in parks
8. More local school/park use rather than centralizing
9. Accessibility – transit, all people, etc.

#### **Strategies and Recommendations**

1. More community support and consultation
2. Silt cliffs, wetlands, forests, grasslands, wildlife areas with interpretation
3. Water parks , playgrounds
4. More smaller parks in neighbourhoods
5. Community gardens
6. Dog parks

### ***Environmental Group Workshop***

#### **Vision**

1. Protect habitat and ecosystems
2. Connect the trail system
3. Restore and enhance habitat values
4. Improve trail accessibility where practical
5. More partnerships with schools re: trails
6. More social activities in parks

## **Strategies and Recommendations**

1. More stewardship projects and activities
2. More education re: dogs
3. More and better interpretive info
4. More infrastructure on trails, e.g., garbage and benches

## **City Staff Workshop**

### **Vision**

1. Maintaining high level of service to a growing and diverse population
2. Promoting active lifestyles
3. Improving the experience of nature
4. Community beautification and identity/ sense of community/ n'hood dev
5. Accessibility to all, sharing, integration of uses and people
6. Sustainability
7. Connectivity
8. Public awareness of services
9. Innovation

## **Strategies and Recommendations**

1. Acquisition of more appropriate land for parks, open space and trails
2. Collaborate with school district and TIB, golf courses, prov. Parks re: facilities and activities/ participation
3. Manage all areas for long-term sustainability
4. Well distributed and accessible parkland, parks for all user interests
5. Connected parks and trail loops
6. Public education / signs
7. Support wildlife habitat connectivity
8. More events to draw legitimate uses
9. Investigate options for making parks safer



## APPENDIX C: POTENTIAL PARK ENHANCEMENTS

The following is a list of parks to be considered for enhancement, with potential changes identified:

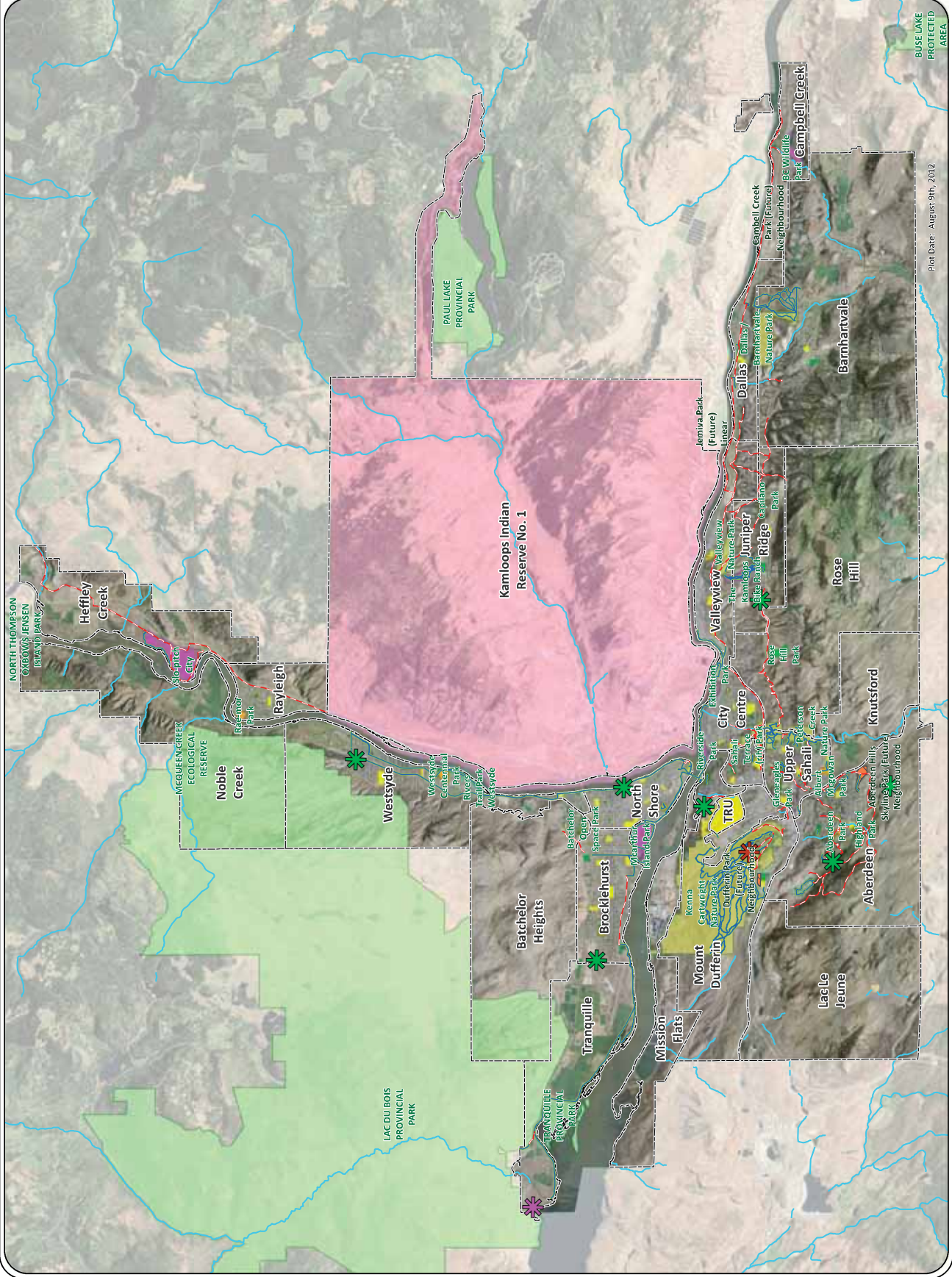
- 1 Albert McGowan Park – add a loop trail with interpretive signs around the wetland/pond area
- 2 Dallas / Barnhartvale Nature Park – restore wetlands (there is a community group that is willing to undertake this work)
- 3 Dufferin Park – enhance the wet area into a wetland/pond with a loop trail
- 4 Juniper Park – explore options for a dog off-leash area (A one year pilot project involves sharing the soccer field as an off-leash area. Soccer games have priority. A permanent dog park in Juniper should be considered with the next new park).
- 5 Kenna Cartwright Nature Park – consider more designation of uses on trails, e.g., no dogs and bikes on the same trails, some trails as no dogs allowed; more maps and way-finding signs (enforcement of the trail designation ideas would be challenging)
- 6 McArthur Island – encourage alternative transportation instead of increasing parking, including: biking, transit and shuttle bus service from hotels (in one entry, out another) especially during events; better and more central play area; allow dogs on leash along trail from pedestrian bridge to MacKenzie Ave.
- 7 McLean Street Park – small off-leash area or community garden
- 8 Peterson Creek Nature Park – consider more designation of uses on trails, e.g., no dogs and bikes on the same trails, some trails as no dogs allowed, upgrade trails to reduce environmental impacts; more maps and way-finding signs (enforcement of the trail designation ideas would be challenging)
- 9 Pioneer Park – vegetation management along shoreline (this is planned for 2012 and will be ongoing)
- 10 Spirit Square – work with Farmer’s Market and Tranquille Road business community to animate the park and connect it more strongly with the commercial area



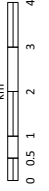
# Map 1: Existing and Proposed Parks

## Legend

- Official Parks**
- City-Wide
  - Community
  - Neighbourhood
  - Linear
  - Tot Lot
  - Nature
  - Open Space
  - Provincial Park
- Proposed Parks**
- City-Wide
  - Neighbourhood
  - Tot Lot
  - Parks (to be Developed)
- Trails**
- Existing
  - Proposed
  - Schools
  - Neighbourhood Boundaries



Plot Date: August 9th, 2012





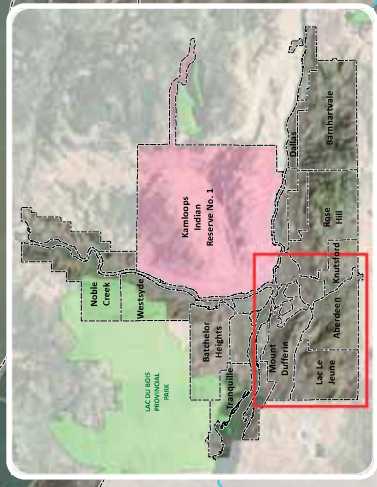
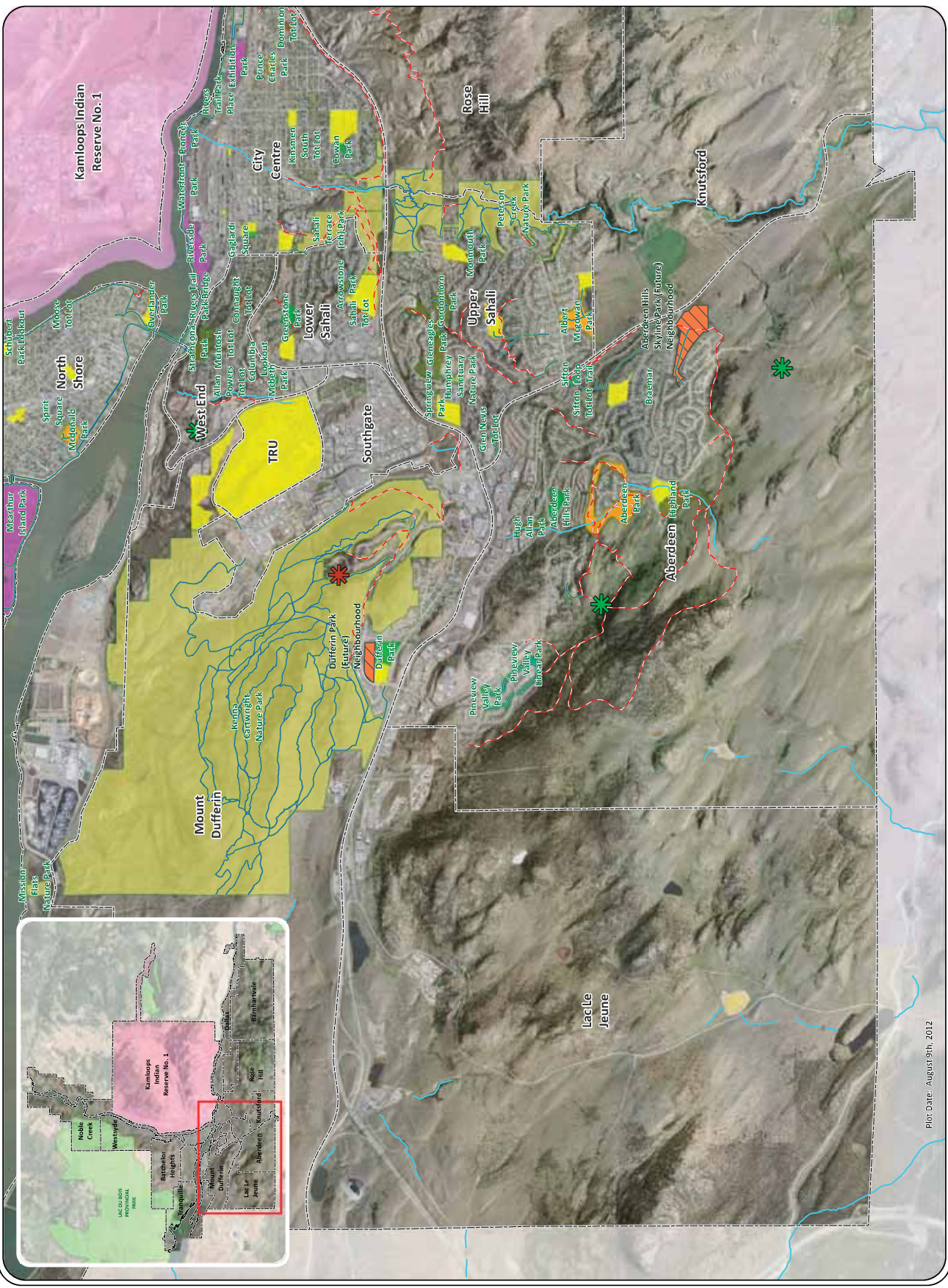
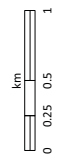


# Map 1: Existing and Proposed Parks

## City Centre and West - City Centre and South Shore

### Legend

- Official Parks**
- City-Wide
  - Community
  - Neighbourhood
  - Linear
  - Tot Lot
  - Nature
  - Open Space
  - Provincial Park
- Proposed Parks**
- City-Wide
  - Neighbourhood
  - Tot Lot
  - Parks (to be Developed)
- Trails**
- Existing
  - Proposed
- Schools**
- Schools
- Neighbourhood Boundaries**
- Neighbourhood Boundaries















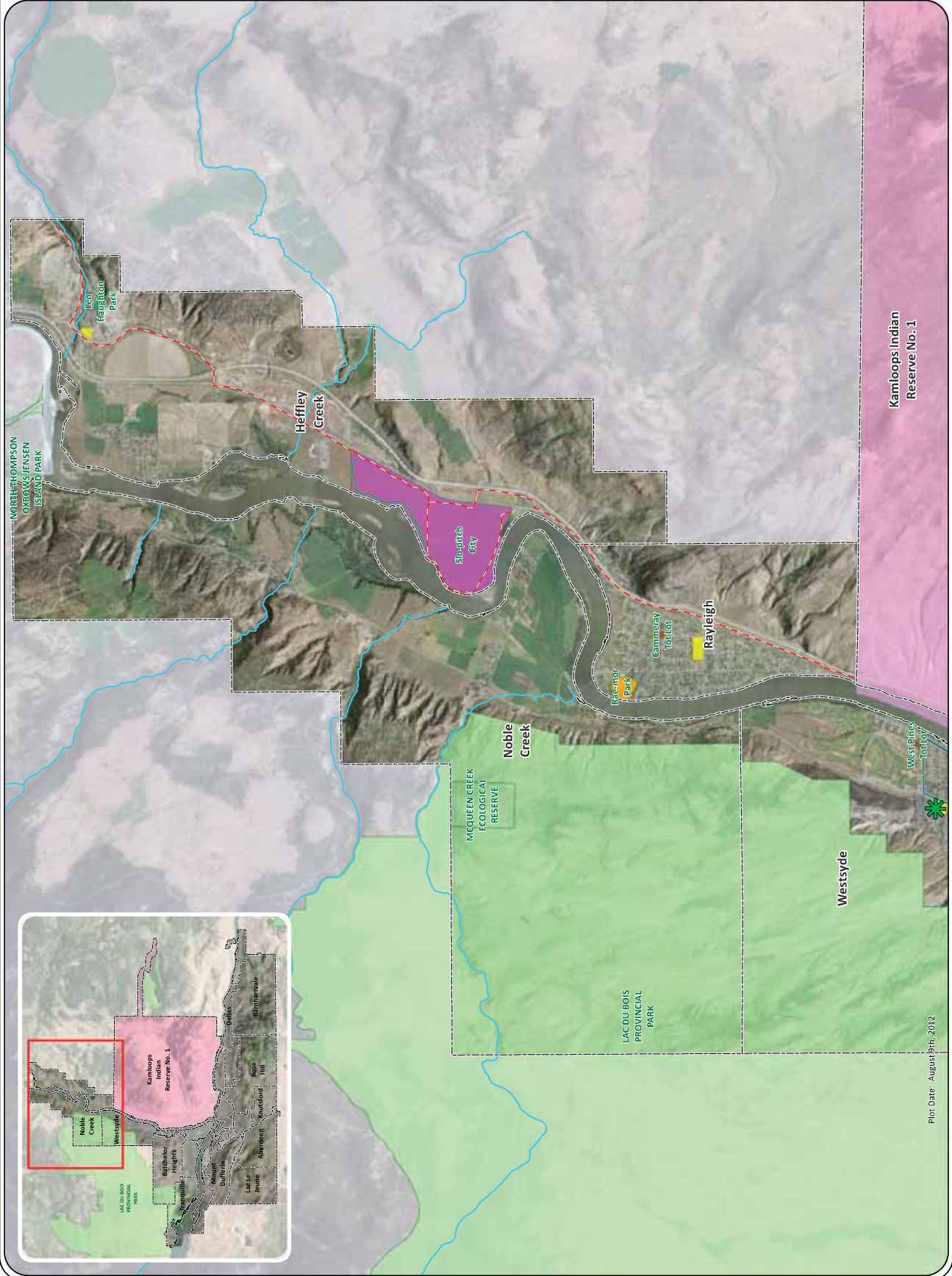


# Map 1: Existing and Proposed Parks

## Westsyde to Heffley Creek - Rayleigh and Heffley Creek

### Legend

- Official Parks**
- City-Wide
  - Community
  - Neighbourhood
  - Linear
  - Tot Lot
  - Nature
  - Open Space
  - Provincial Park
- Proposed Parks**
- City-Wide
  - Neighbourhood
  - Tot Lot
  - Parks (to be Developed)
- Trails**
- Existing
  - Proposed
- Schools**
- Schools
- Neighbourhood Boundaries**
- Neighbourhood Boundaries



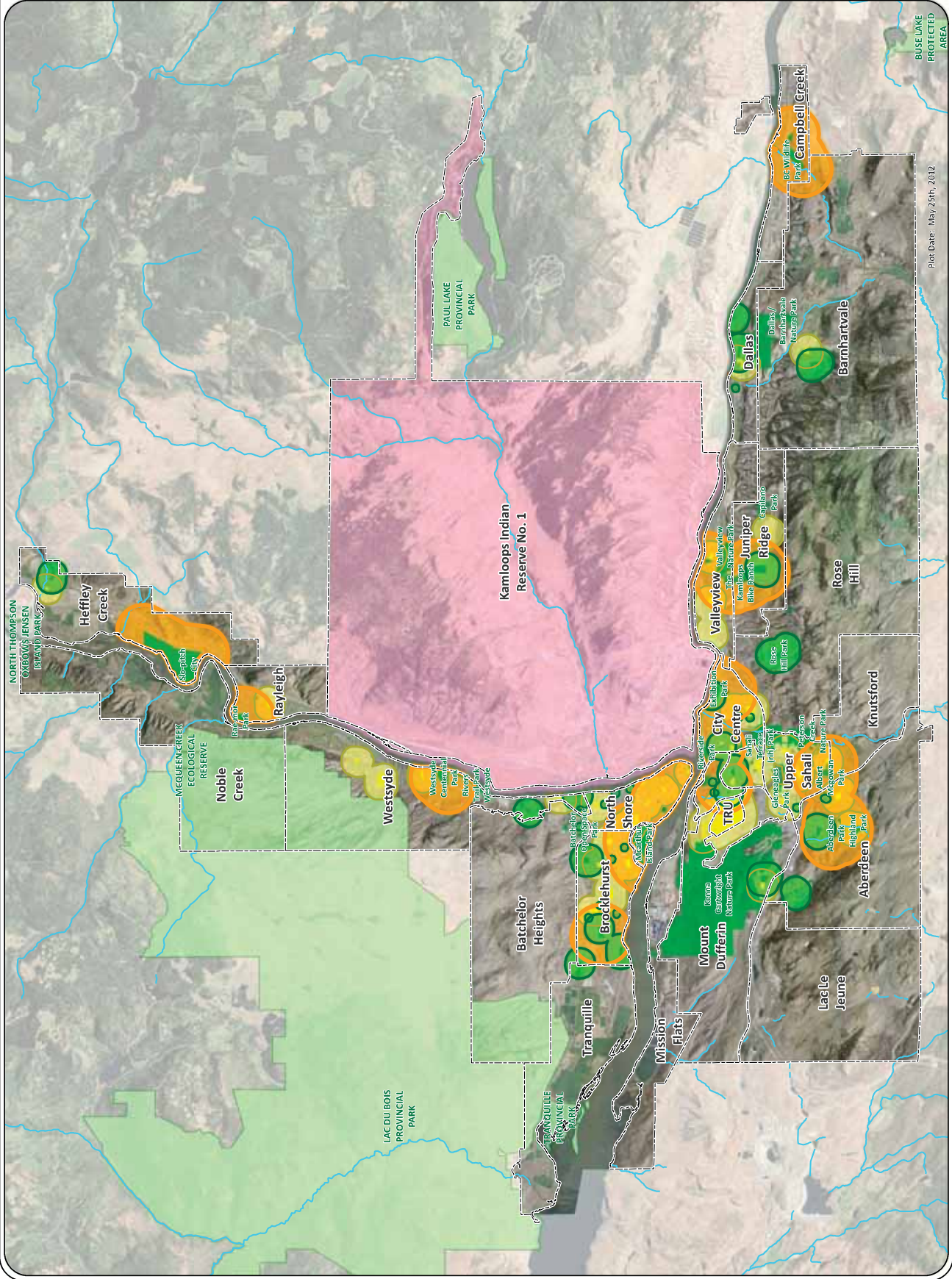
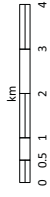




### Map 2: Spatial Analysis of Parks

#### Legend

- City-Wide and Community Parks Catchment (0.8km)
- Neighbourhood Parks Catchment (0.4km)
- Small Neighbourhood Parks & Tot Lots Catchment (0.1km)
- School Catchment (0.4km)
- Official Parks
- Provincial Park
- Schools
- Neighbourhood Boundaries



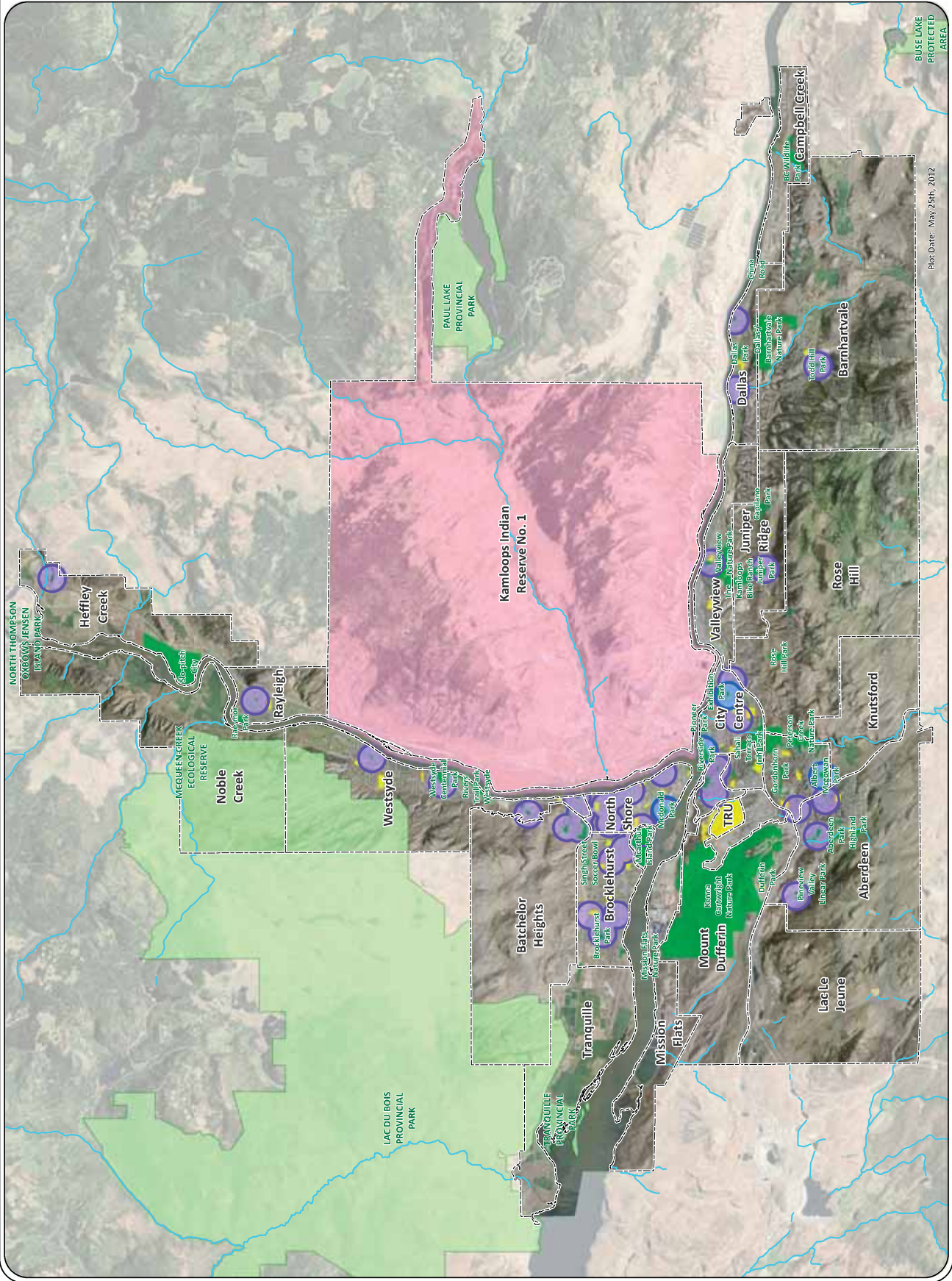
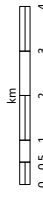
Plot Date: May 25th, 2012





### Map 3: Spatial Analysis of Playgrounds / Water Parks and Wading Pools

- Legend**
- Water Parks & Wading Pools Catchment (0.4km)
  - Playgrounds Catchment (0.4km)
  - Official Parks
  - Provincial Park
  - Schools
  - Neighbourhood Boundaries









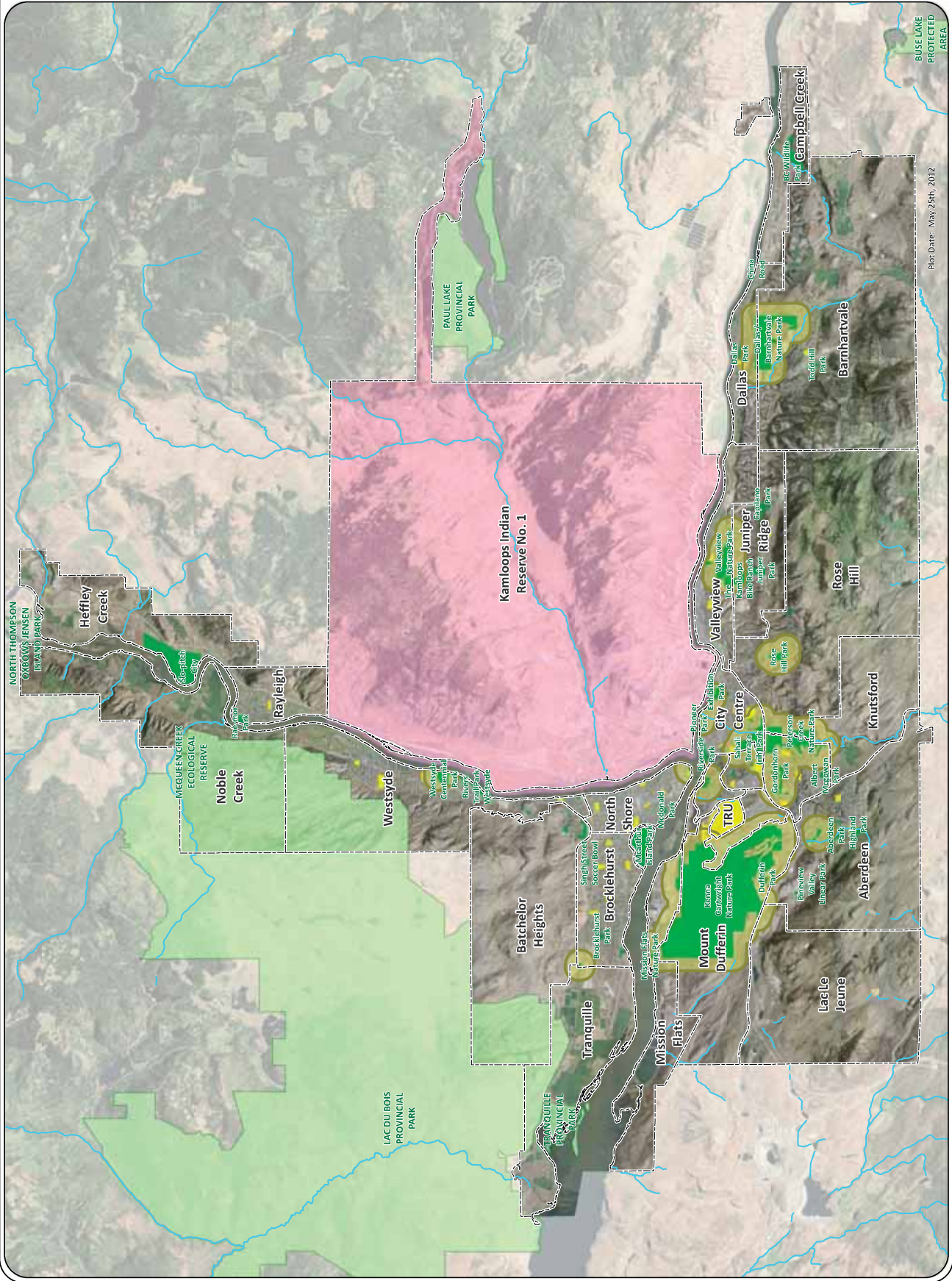




### Map 4: Spatial Analysis of Off Leash Parks

#### Legend

-  Off Leash Parks
-  Catchment (0.4km)
-  Official Parks
-  Provincial Park
-  Schools
-  Neighbourhood Boundaries



Plot Date: May 25th, 2012

