

16.0 Parks

Goals

Improve the livability of our community by identifying and securing parks and open spaces that meet the needs of residents.

Establish a sustainable method to fund parks expansion in Vernon.

Support the Greater Vernon Advisory Committee in acquiring park space to meet the growing and changing needs of the Greater Vernon area.

Guiding Principles Met

Protect and preserve green spaces and sensitive areas

Create a culture of sustainability

Create strong, compact and complete neighbourhoods

Provide alternative transportation

Revitalize the Downtown

Create a youth friendly city

Context

Parks play an important role in the community. They provide opportunities for physical activity and relaxation, act as places for residents to meet, and help protect sensitive ecosystems and habitat. A high quality parks system contributes greatly to the quality of life of Vernon residents and is a key amenity that can be used to attract a skilled labour force, contributing to business expansion and attraction.

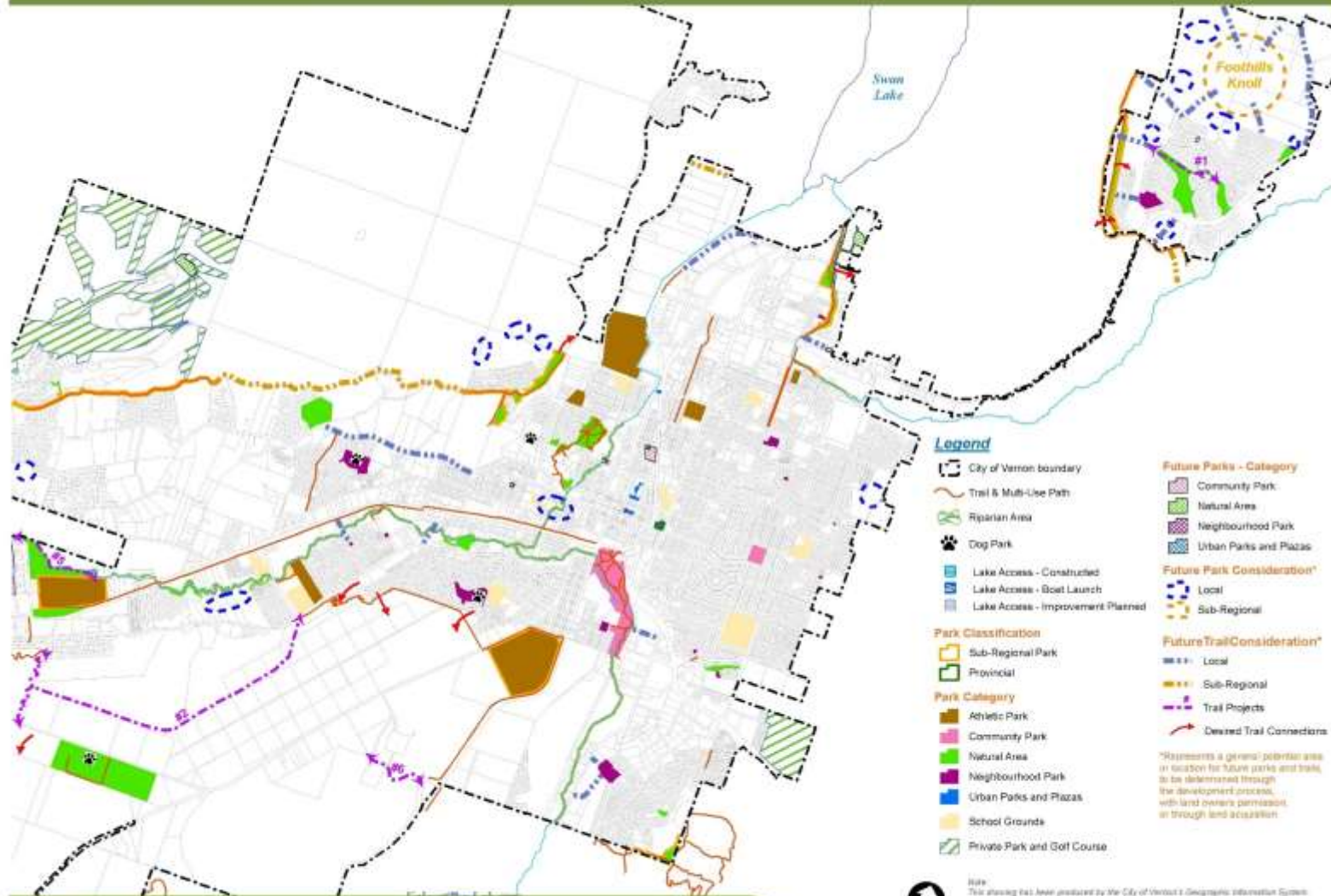
In 2014, the City of Vernon became responsible for the provision of local parks and some components of the trail network within the city boundary, while GVAC remains responsible for subregional parks within the city boundary as well as the BX and Grey Canal Trail systems. Following this transition, a new City of Vernon Parks Master Plan was developed and endorsed by



Council on September 14, 2015. This Parks Master Plan provides guidance for parkland acquisition and development over ten years, and was the result of an extensive community engagement process.

Supporting Policies

- 16.1 Implement the Parks Master Plan, and review the plan every five years.
- 16.2 Determine a sustainable funding mechanism for implementation of the Parks Master Plan, including the adoption of a Development Cost Charges bylaw to include Development Cost Charges for parks under the jurisdiction of the City of Vernon.
- 16.3 Support an update to the 2004 Greater Vernon Parks and Recreation Master Plan to reflect the change in governance.
- 16.4 Update the Lake Access Plan, recognizing that such access primarily serves as transportation infrastructure.
- 16.5 Support initiatives between the City, RDNO and GVAC to produce comprehensive trail and park publications for residents and visitors.
- 16.6 Utilize the Civic Arena block as park space once the facility is relocated in the future, as per the Parks Master Plan and the City Centre Neighbourhood Plan.
- 16.7 In partnership with RDNO and GVAC, support the creation and expansion of natural areas or passive parkland serving the needs of the community and meeting the following criteria:
 - a. Preserves and enhances a unique or threatened ecosystem or species
 - b. Preserves and enhances riparian ecosystems adjacent to Okanagan Lake, Vernon Creek, BX Creek and other riparian features
 - c. Provides connection between natural areas
 - d. Provides and protects wildlife corridors
 - e. Provides protection of visually significant areas of the City
 - f. Provides non-invasive public access opportunities to protected features through facilities such as viewing platforms, low impact trails, and interpretive centres
 - g. Work with the Regional District of North Okanagan to provide interjurisdictional connections for natural and sensitive areas where feasible. Support the Ribbons of Green Trails Society in the development of a comprehensive trail system.



Parks Master Plan - Implementation Plan

Map 9b

Legend

- City of Vernon boundary
- Trail & Multi-Use Path
- Riparian Area
- Dog Park
- Lake Access - Constructed
- Lake Access - Boat Launch
- Lake Access - Improvement Planned

Park Classification

- Sub-Regional Park
- Provincial

Park Category

- Athletic Park
- Community Park
- Natural Area
- Neighbourhood Park
- Urban Parks and Plazas
- School Grounds
- Private Park and Golf Course

Future Parks - Category

- Community Park
- Natural Area
- Neighbourhood Park
- Urban Parks and Plazas

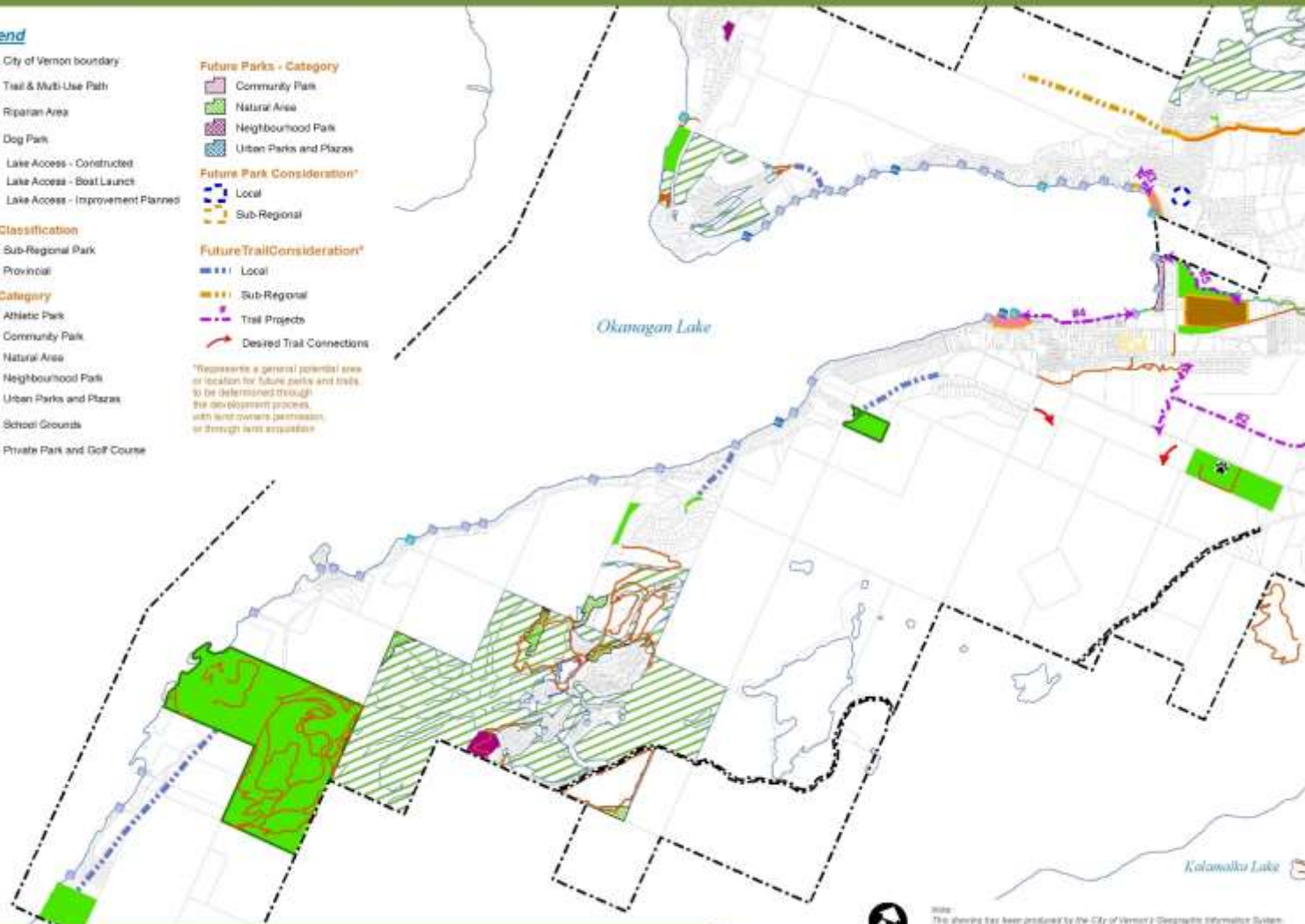
Future Park Consideration*

- Local
- Sub-Regional

Future Trail Consideration*

- Local
- Sub-Regional
- Trail Projects
- Desired Trail Connections

*Represents a general potential area or location for future parks and trails, to be determined through the development process, with land owners permission, or through land acquisition.



Official Community Plan



Note:
This drawing has been prepared by the City of Vernon's Geographic Information System. Data provided from this system is derived from a variety of sources with varying levels of accuracy. The City of Vernon disclaims all responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the information contained herein.

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Produced by: The City of Vernon GIS

This map only shows park information for areas inside the City of Vernon boundary. The Greater Vernon Parks and Recreation Master Plan should be consulted for Parks information outside the City of Vernon.