



Parks Master Plan

Draft – October 31, 2014

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Executive Summary

To be completed following Council's endorsement of the draft Parks Master Plan.

Draft Vision

Vernon local parks are safe, equitably located, demographically relevant and physically accessible. They contribute to the environmental health of the community, while connecting and protecting key habitats. Parks are places where people have fun, socialize, play sports and improve physical and mental health. They are places people go to relax, find stillness and get creative. The parks provide relief from the urban environment and beautify the community.

Investment in parks, through a variety of means, is balanced between new parks and existing ones. A healthy balance is struck between parkland dedications and land acquisitions by purchase. Existing parks are improved and well nurtured. Funding sources are varied, committed and stable. Community partnerships are strong and actively fostered. RDNO and the City work together on the identification of sub-regional parkland for regional acquisition.

Trail development focuses on key links between existing trails, multi-model transportation infrastructure and parks.

Acknowledgments:

This document was created using the input of 2,500 engaged residents, numerous invested stakeholders, community groups and eight passionate park ambassadors:

Mike Buffie – Polson Park
Jody Harrison – 11 StreetTot Lot
Harold Sellers – Becker Park
Inge Friesen – Longacre Trail
Gary Haas – Girouard Park
Linda Ledbury- Pioneer and Heritage Park
Rod Drennan – Sawicki Park
Caroline Bowman – Lower Commonage Trail

Thank you for your time and meaningful contributions.

A big thank you to the creative talents of Sproing Creative and Buffy Baumbrough for the photographs and Tambellini Design Studio for the layout and formatting. You've help make the document beautiful and accessible.



Introduction

The parks system is made up of parks, trails and outdoor recreation facilities. This system provides a multitude of benefits for residents, visitors, businesses and the natural environment. It contributes to a community's identity and unique sense of place. The parks system provides economic and social benefits, contributes to environmental health, community beautification, habitat protection and provides a higher quality of life for residents. Parks and trails are the common spaces in our community where everyone is welcome to experience leisure; people can

socialize, enjoy physical activity or simply relax in nature.

The Parks Master Plan represents a vision for parks, trails and outdoor recreation, created with guidance from the generous and thoughtful input of more than 2,500 residents and stakeholders. The Plan is consistent with, and supports, Vernon's Official Community Plan, and looks to provide direction to effectively and responsibly manage the parks system to 2025 to ensure the growing community is well served with amenities in a sound, fiscally responsible manner.



History

Parks in Vernon have been created in many different ways over time. Lands such as Polson Park, Alexis Park and Mission Hill Park have been generously donated by families. Other lands have been dedicated as part of a development process and the subdivision of land. Some lands for parks have been purchased. The parks system was previously managed for the City of Vernon, District of Coldstream and Electoral Areas B and C, collectively known as Greater Vernon, by the Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO).

The first Parks and Recreation Master Plan for Greater Vernon was adopted in 1991. It was replaced by the Greater Vernon Parks and Recreation Master Plan in 2004. These plans provided guidance for a shared vision and responsibility for maintaining, operating and improving parks and facilities, and for acquiring and developing new parks. The plans included recommendations for parkland acquisition, indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, trails, beaches, recreation programs, human

resources and financing in a prioritized phasing and capital plan. This was done under various governance structures including, most recently, the Greater Vernon Advisory Committee (GVAC).

On January 1, 2014, under the Greater Vernon Sub-Regional Parks and Trails Service Agreement, the City of Vernon took over the governance of local parks within the city boundaries. Sub-regional parks are still governed by RDNO through GVAC. The agreement included park properties transferred to and from the City of Vernon and RDNO based on the new structure and identified which parks were local and which were sub-regional. Financial agreements were also made regarding the distribution of collected development cost charges and parks reserves. These changes resulted in the need for Vernon to develop a plan for its parks system.



Sub-Regional Parks serve a more regional population and include larger Athletic Parks (Marshall Fields and DND), Community Parks on the lake (Kin Beach and Paddlewheel) and significant trail systems (Grey Canal and BX).



Local Parks serve primarily the residents and visitors of Vernon. They include Community Parks that are destinations (Polson and Lakeview), all neighbourhood parks, some Athletic Parks (Kin Race Track and Alexis Park) and smaller trail systems (Longacre and 25th Ave).

Find a complete list of parks in Appendix 1.

Planning Context

The Official Community Plan (OCP) outlines the vision for the future growth of Vernon and provides guidance for policy development and decision making. Vernon's OCP focuses on promoting compact urban development that supports responsible asset management, including parks, encourages more housing choices and provides transportation options. This is achieved by focusing on the City Centre (Development District 1) as the top priority for redevelopment, followed by a network of neighbourhood centres throughout the city (Development District 2), such as the Waterfront and the area around Polson Mall. New development on hillsides and agricultural lands (Development District 3) is focused in adopted Neighbourhood Plan Areas.

The growth strategy aims to encourage development where services and amenities already exist to better serve the residents of the community in a fiscally responsible manner. The Parks Master Plan aims to support the OCP's growth strategy and was developed using the guidance provided by the tremendous public input that was received.



The OCP Guiding Principles are:

- ❖ Foster prosperity for people, business and government
- ❖ Protect and preserve green spaces and sensitive areas
- ❖ Ensure housing meets the needs of the whole community
- ❖ Create a culture of sustainability
- ❖ Protect agricultural land
- ❖ Create strong, compact and complete neighbourhoods
- ❖ Provide alternative transportation
- ❖ Revitalize the Downtown
- ❖ Create a youth friendly city

Growth in Development District 3 – Hillside Residential and Agricultural District, is encouraged primarily in Neighbourhood Plan Areas. These areas have policy documents, known as Neighbourhood Plans, that form part of the OCP and act as supplemental plans to guide growth and development in these neighbourhoods. Each plan provides details on parks and trails. Predator Ridge, The Rise and Turtle Mountain also have parkland transfer agreements which outline parkland dedication requirements as development progresses. Parks planning in the Neighbourhood Plan areas is very specific to those neighbourhoods. Given the detailed guidance for parks provided in the existing Neighbourhood Plans, the Parks Master Plan focuses primarily on Development District 1 and 2.



Vernon's trail network is a highly valued recreational amenity and can form an important part of the transportation system. Connectivity is critical for the overall function and usefulness of the system. Guidance and details pertaining to trail development come from both the Pedestrian and Bike Master Plan and the Ribbons of Green Trail Society Trails Plan. Both documents were updated and endorsed by Council in 2014 and greatly inform the trail policies in the Parks Master Plan.





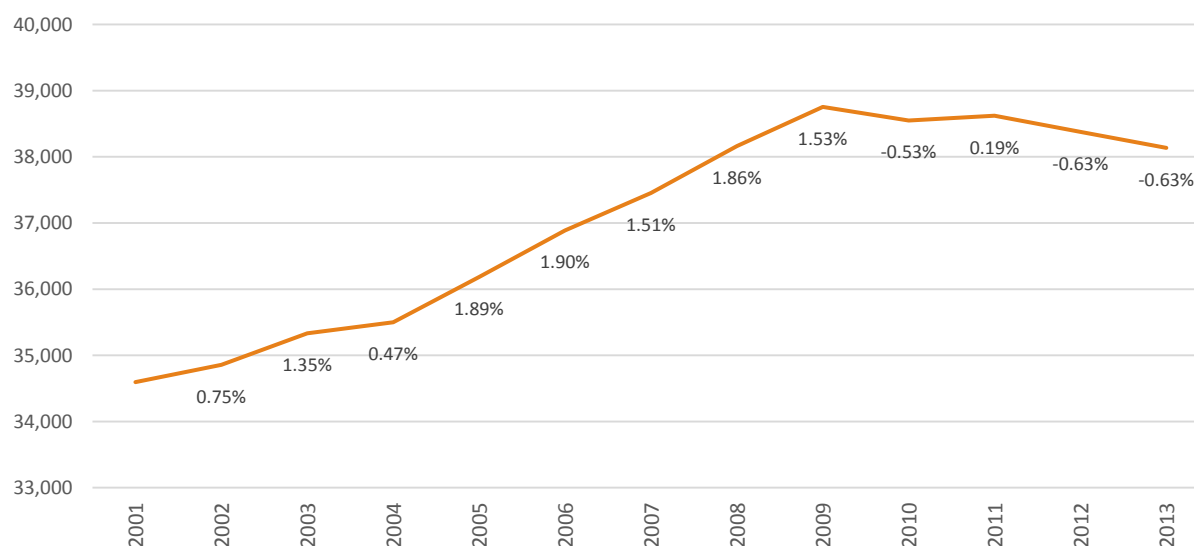
Population

Vernon Population: 2001 – 2011

Vernon's population was estimated at 38,150 in 2011. The average annual population growth between the years 2001 – 2011 was approximately 1%, amounting to an additional 4,608 people. Much of that growth took place between 2005 – 2008. Since 2011, the population showed a slight decline in growth of 0.6% per year, based on estimates from BC Stats (Figure 1).

The Parks Master Plan considers that Vernon's parks system will attract not only our local residents but also people throughout the region. The surrounding population in Greater Vernon and in the Regional District of North Okanagan has a direct relationship to park usage, especially Community Parks such as Polson Park and Athletic Parks. Figure 2 documents the population in Greater Vernon and the North Okanagan for 2001, 2006 and 2011 (Statistics Canada Census).

Figure 1: Vernon Population 2002-2013



Source: Population Estimates in Municipalities, Regional Districts and Development Regions, BC Stats (2014). Note: these estimates are based on a methodology distinct from Statistics Canada, resulting in slightly different population estimates.

Figure 2 – Greater Vernon and North Okanagan Population Growth 2001, 2006, 2011

Jurisdiction	2001 Census	2006 Census	2011 Census	% Change
City of Vernon	33,542	35,944	38,150	12.08%
District of Coldstream	9,106	9,471	10,314	11.71%
Electoral Areas "B" & "C"	6,694	7,158	6,918	3.24%
Okanagan Indian Band Reserve No. 1 & No. 6	2,236	2,845	2,673	16.35%
Total Greater Vernon	51,578	55,418	58,055	11.16%
Regional District of North Okanagan	73,227	77,301	81,237	9.86%

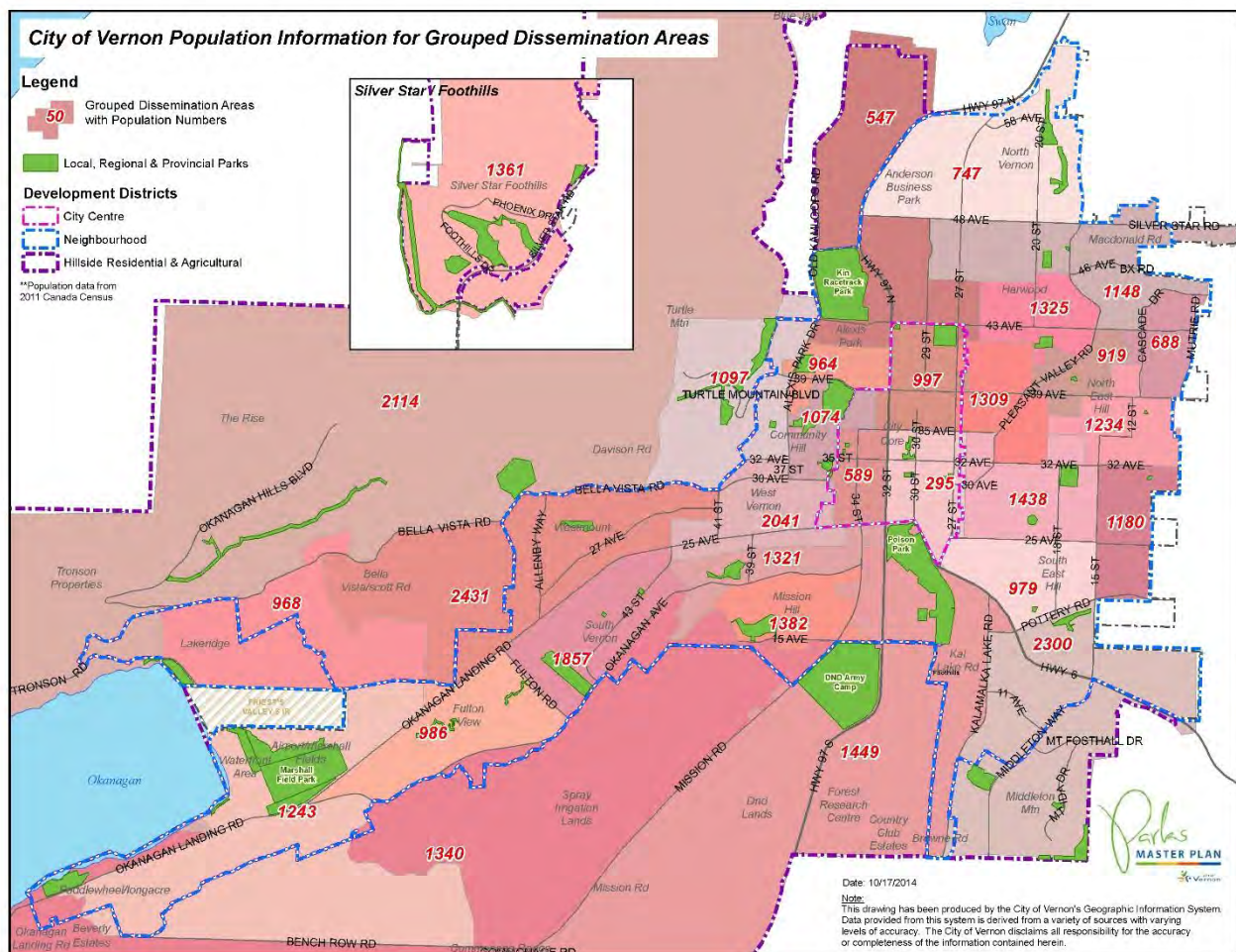
Source: 2001, 2006, 2011 Census Profiles, Statistics Canada.

Population Density by Area and Neighbourhood

Census data is provided in Dissemination Areas (DAs), which illustrates the population by age and other characteristics by neighbourhoods and areas throughout the city. There are 17 Census “neighbourhoods” within the city boundaries. As shown on Map 1 and in Figure 3, East Hill has the largest population with 7,330 residents. South Vernon is the second most populated neighbourhood with more than

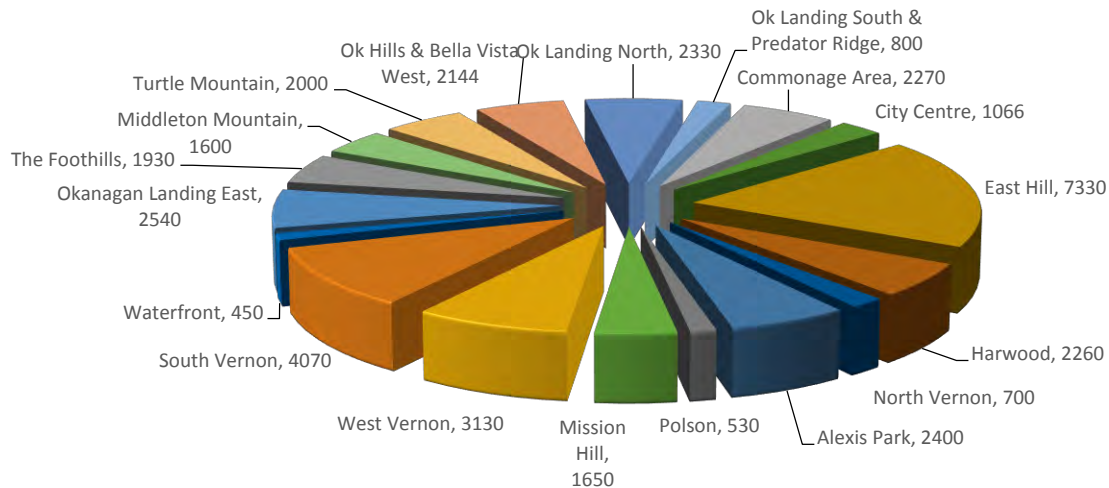
4,070 residents. Several hillside neighbourhoods, Turtle Mountain, Bella Vista, Middleton Mountain and the Foothills, are grouped with adjacent developed, mature neighbourhoods in the Census, and thus have approximately 1,800 residents each. When designing new parks or making improvements to existing ones, the surrounding population demographics are assessed and considered to ensure park design, structures, improvements and amenities suit the surrounding residents as well as other potential users.

Map 1: City of Vernon Population in Grouped Dissemination Areas, 2011



Source: City of Vernon, 2014.

Figure 3: Vernon Population by Neighbourhood, 2011

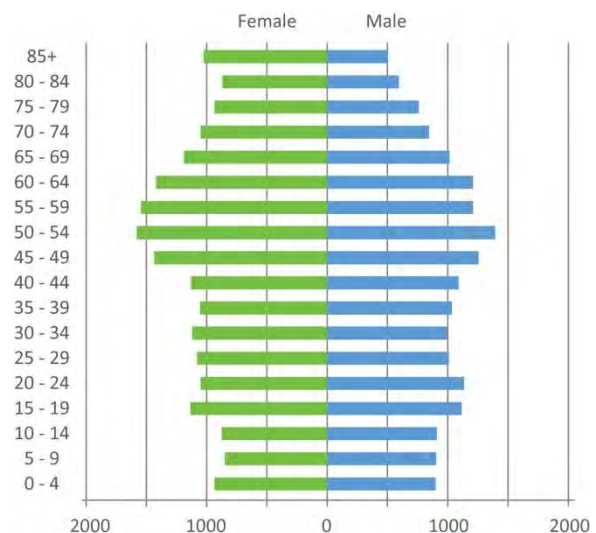


Source: City of Vernon, 2013

Population by Age Group

According to the 2011 Census, there were 17,870 males and 20,280 females living in Vernon (Figure 4). Females are dominant in the majority of the age groups, especially in age groups of 55+. In 2011, the median age of the population was 48.3, 3.8 years older than the 2006 Census, and 6.1 years older than 2001 Census.

Figure 4: Vernon Population by Age and Sex, 2011

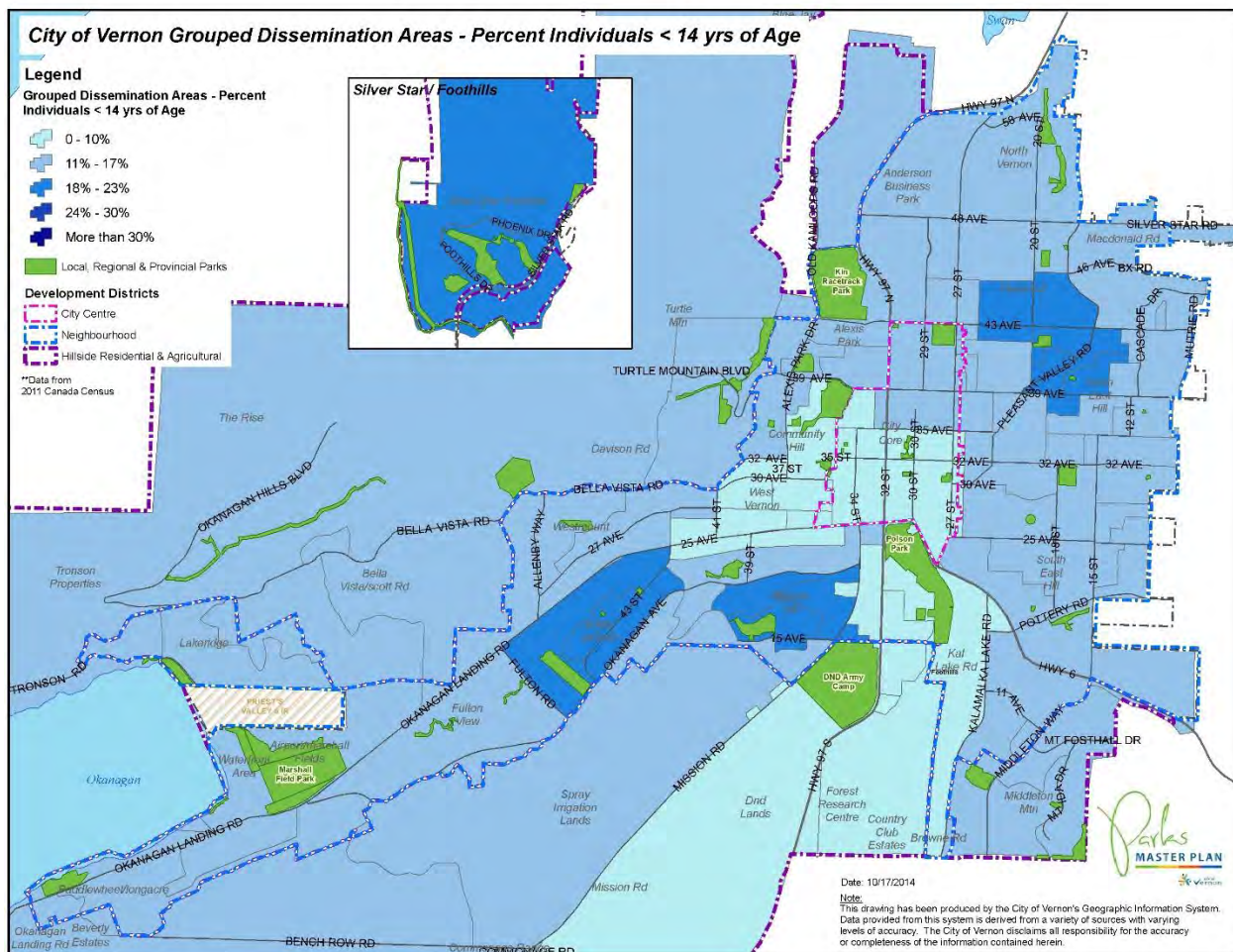


Source: 2011 Vernon Census Profile, Statistics Canada.



In 2011, residents older than 60 were the largest age group (29.94%). Residents younger than 14 were the smallest age group (14.07%).

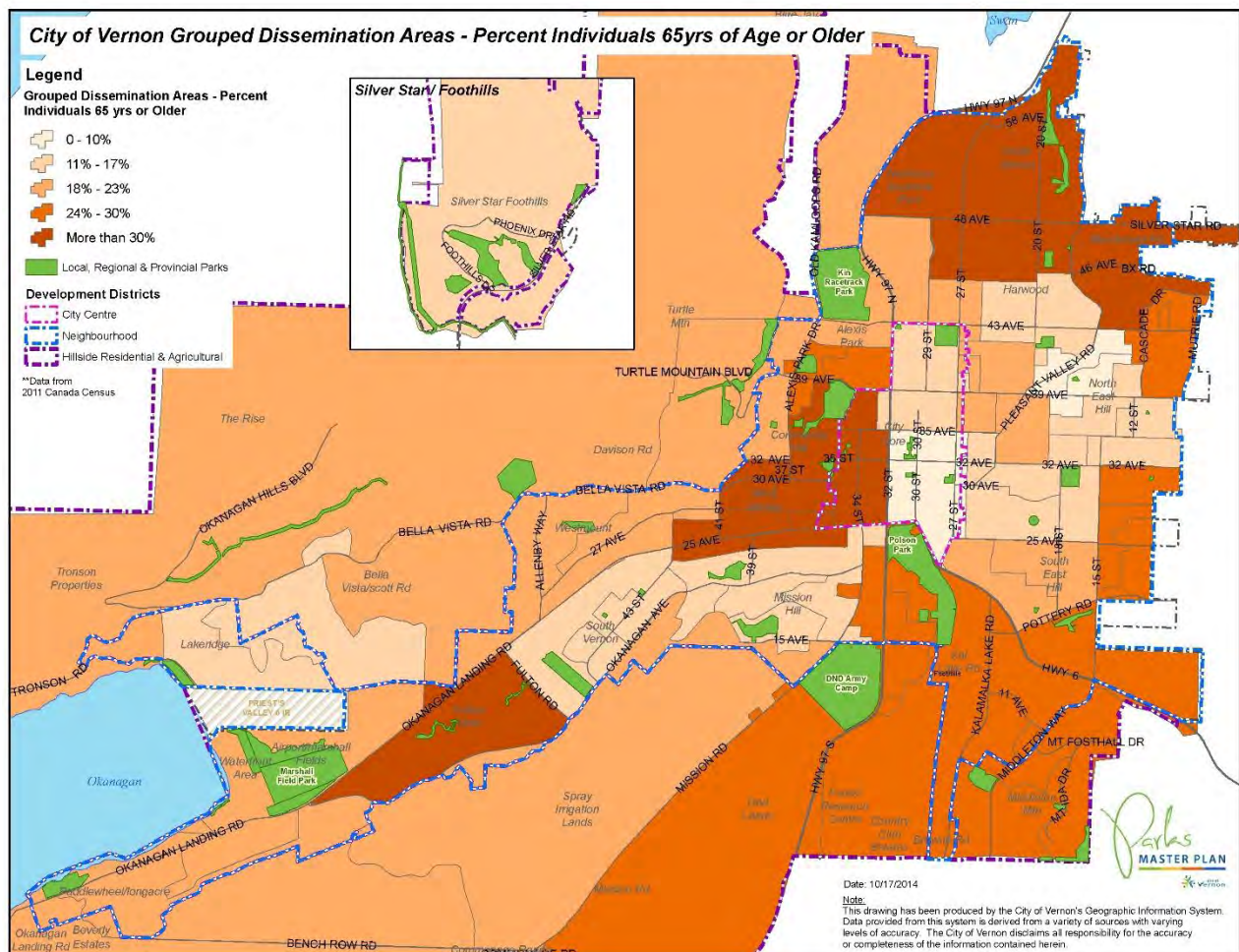
Map 3: City of Vernon Grouped Dissemination Areas - Percent Individuals 14 Years or Younger, 2011



Source: City of Vernon, 2014.

Map 3 shows that there is a high percentage of the young age groups (14 years and younger) in the Mission Hill, South Vernon, Harwood and Foothills neighbourhoods.

Map 4: City of Vernon Grouped Dissemination Areas - Percent Individuals 65 Years or Older, 2011



Source: City of Vernon, 2014.

Map 4, demonstrates that there is a high percentage of older residents (65 years and older) in parts of the City Centre, West Vernon, Fulton View and North Vernon neighbourhoods.

Population Projections 2011 – 2036

Between the years 2001-2011, Vernon has experienced a steady population growth of an average of 1%. In more recent years, it is estimated that the population has declined slightly. According to population projections, a growth rate of 1% a year is expected for the next 25 years. By 2036 the population is projected to increase by 9,850 people, resulting in a total population of 48,000.

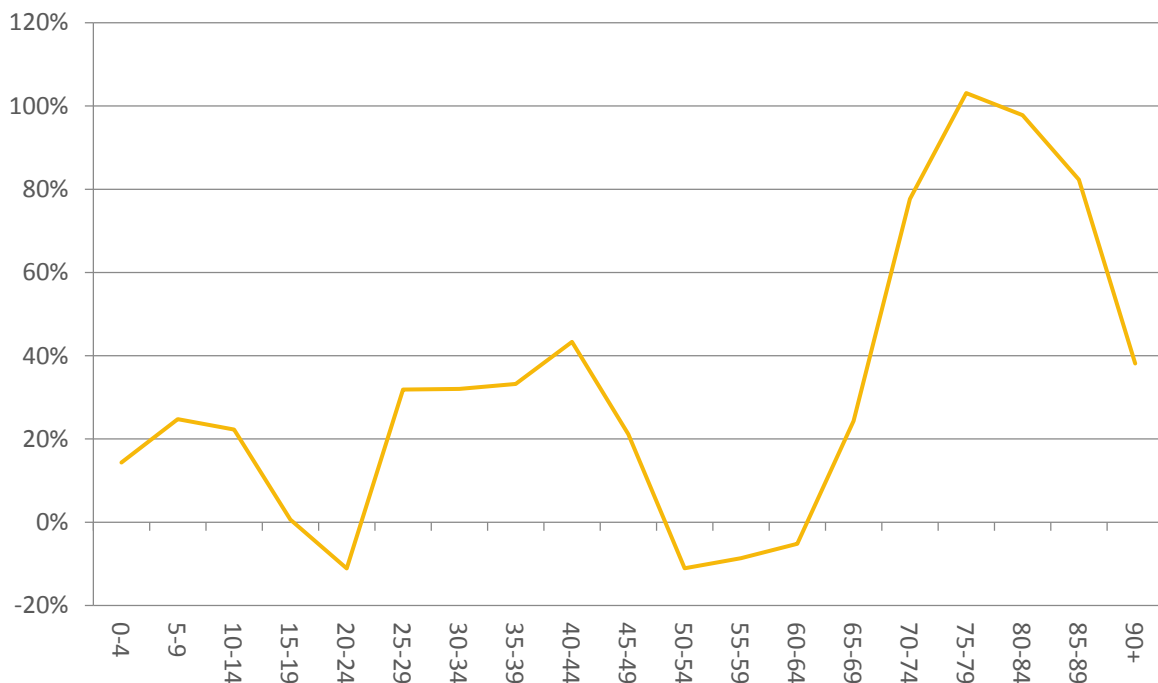
As indicated in Figure 5, during the next 25 years, the city population is expected to become older. The age groups of 65 and above are expected to increase dramatically, and the youngest age groups will rapidly decline. It is also anticipated that the “creative” age groups between 15-24 will shrink as a result of negative migration (e.g. moving away).

Community Economic Development initiatives and public investment in amenities, such as parks and trails, all form part of the strategy in the Official Community Plan to attract and retain young families in Vernon.



The Official Community Plan and supplementary documents include many policies and programs to encourage youth and young families to move to Vernon. “Create a youth friendly city” is one of the OCP’s guiding principles, and the growth strategy and land use plan in the OCP is intended to create a community that younger people want to live.

Figure 5: Vernon Projected Population Changes by 5 Year Age Groups, 2011-2036



Source: City of Vernon, 2013

Implications

Although Vernon's population has declined in recent years, the overall trend is still on the rise. What this information does not reflect is the number of seasonal residents that reside in Vernon. Infrastructure and amenities, such as parks, need to consider both the permanent and seasonal populations, which are not always reflected in Census data. Housing development and building permits are on the rise which reflects the 1% growth.

Our aging population needs to be considered carefully when planning and designing parks.

As indicated in the City's Official Community Plan, we also want to create a youth friendly city which will attract additional younger families.

A 2015 population of 39,000 is expected and a 2025 population of 44,000 is projected.



The development of the Parks Master Plan was informed by the numerous consultation exercises detailed below. Meaningful community engagement and dialogue is the cornerstone for the vision set forth in this document.

Community Engagement – Process and Results

Community-Wide Parks Questionnaire

A community-wide parks questionnaire was launched in April to gauge the community's level of satisfaction with the parks system and how they use parks, as well as to determine their opinions on improvements and additions to the park system. Funding approaches were also explored.

The questionnaire was available in hard copy and online. It was distributed through the

quarterly utility bills to reach homes and businesses in Vernon and made available at various locations across the city. The online survey was promoted through a series of newspaper advertisements and via social media such as the City's Twitter and Facebook accounts.



1,104 survey responses were received.

Survey Results

Top Public Priorities:



Trails and
Pathways



Natural Areas



Lake/Beach
Access



Community and
Neighbourhood
Parks

Top 10 Activities People Engage in Most Frequently



Hiking, trail and
pathway use



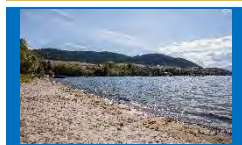
Dog walking



Walking, jogging,
running



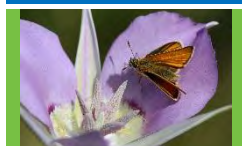
Visiting a playground



Visiting the beach



Cycling, mountain
biking, BMX



Enjoying nature/
wildlife viewing



Social cultural outings/
special events

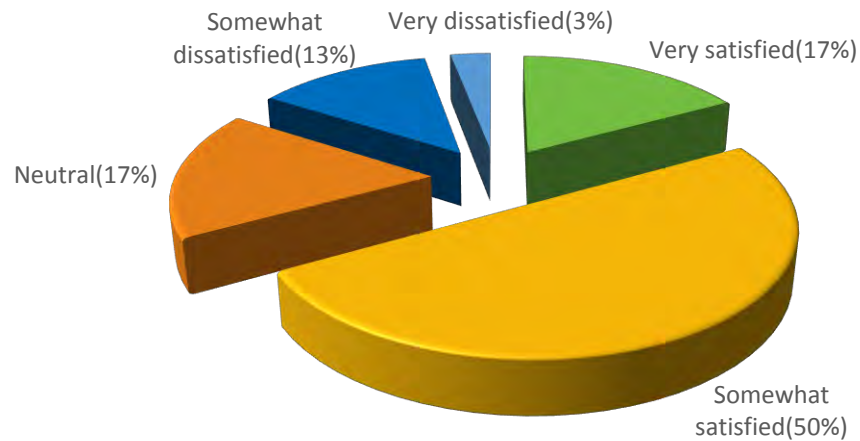


Outdoor exercise

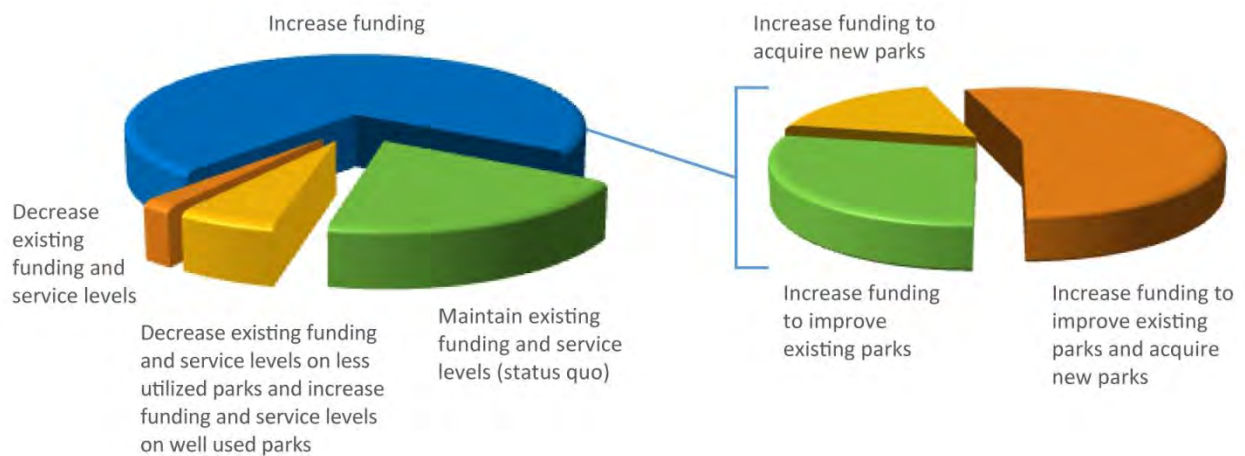


Field use: soccer,
baseball, softball,
football

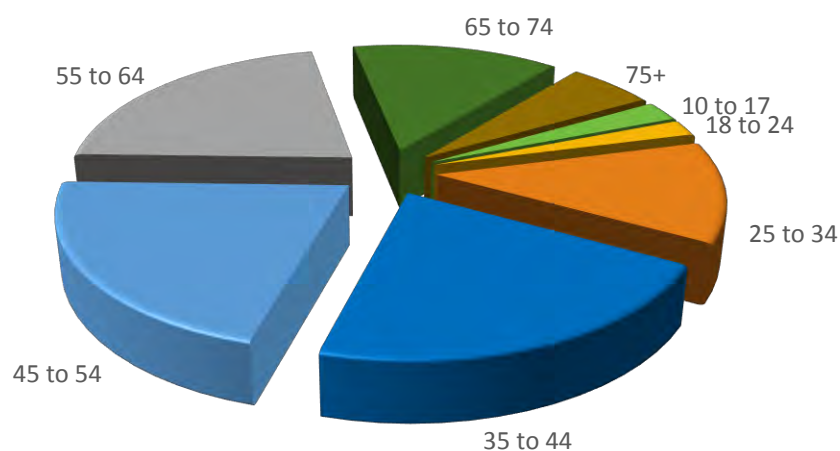
Public Satisfaction with the Parks System



Funding Approaches



Who Responded?





Parks Consultation Stations

Consultation stations were set up throughout the city in the summer of 2014. These consultation stations were held at various parks throughout the city and at special events such as the Sunshine Festival, Canada Day celebrations and the Vernon Farmers' Market. These stations provided the opportunity for the public to view information on the parks system and the survey results. It provided the opportunity for people to discuss their priorities for parks, what was missing, what could be improved and helped establish a vision for future park improvements, purchases and developments. In total, 12 such events were held. Approximately 1,500 people participated, providing valuable insight into activities at a variety of parks and recommending specific

improvements. Activities for children were also conducted including a parks themed colouring contest.





Results:

The top public priorities for parks identified in the survey were further explored during the consultation stations, helping to provide more detailed public feedback. In order of priority, below are the top five most frequently supported initiatives:



Trail and Pathway Priorities:

- ❖ Need more, expanded, connected and safe multi-use paths, trails, bike lanes and sidewalks in, through and around Vernon for all types of users
- ❖ Complete the Grey Canal Trail
- ❖ Need child and family friendly multi-use trails
- ❖ Develop looped trails, not dead ends (especially in the Commonage)
- ❖ Include pathways in parks for walking and biking



Lake and Beach Access Priorities:

- ❖ Establish a continuous trail/boardwalk along Okanagan Lake
- ❖ Improve beach and water conditions, better sand and swimming areas
- ❖ Need a dog friendly beach where dogs can swim
- ❖ Establish a floating water park
- ❖ Improve and expand the number of lake access points and boat launches



Park Project Ideas:

- ❖ Explore acquiring a large natural reserve area (Commonage or O’Keefe rangelands)
- ❖ Explore the development of an outdoor swimming pool
- ❖ Implement natural and adventure playgrounds as an alternative
- ❖ Explore the feasibility of a centrally located outdoor skating rink
- ❖ Evaluate expanding Dog Parks and increasing enforcement

Park Ambassador Program

To get a better understanding of how parks are used at different times of the day, different days of the week and how they could be improved, a Park Ambassador Program was initiated in July. Vernon residents were invited to become park ambassadors and received training and forms to monitor how the park of their choice was being used. Eight ambassadors participated in the program. Their feedback and recommendations informed the policy development in the plan.



1. Stakeholder Meetings and Workshops

Numerous smaller stakeholder meetings and workshops were held with the following groups:

- ❖ Seniors Action Network
- ❖ Pickleball representatives
- ❖ Tennis representatives
- ❖ Lacrosse representatives
- ❖ Soccer representatives
- ❖ Disc golf representatives
- ❖ North Okanagan Sports Society
- ❖ North Okanagan Early Years Council
- ❖ Maven Lane – staff, parents and surrounding residents
- ❖ Kalamalka Rotary Club
- ❖ Kokanee Swim Club
- ❖ North Okanagan Parks and Natural Areas Trust
- ❖ Ribbons of Green Trail Society
- ❖ Community Garden Stakeholders
- ❖ Fulton Grade 10 Social Studies students

A specific meeting was held with representatives from the following organizations to discuss the preservation of environmental areas in the North Okanagan with RDNO, City of Vernon and District of Coldstream staff:

- ❖ Ribbons of Green Trail Society
- ❖ North Okanagan Naturalists Club
- ❖ Transition Towns
- ❖ Vernon Outdoors Club
- ❖ North Okanagan Parks and Natural Areas Trust
- ❖ Okanagan Conservation Planning/Okanagan Cooperative Conservation Program
- ❖ Allan Brooks Nature Centre
- ❖ Okanagan Science Centre

Internal staff from the City of Vernon and RDNO were also engaged throughout the process to identify challenges and opportunities for consideration in the development of the plan.





Vision

Vernon local parks are safe, equitably located, demographically relevant and physically accessible. They contribute to the environmental health of the community, while connecting and protecting key habitats. Parks are places where people have fun, socialize, play sports and improve physical and mental health. They are places people go to relax, find stillness and get creative. The parks provide relief from the urban environment and beautify the community.

Investment in parks, through a variety of means, is balanced between new parks and existing ones. A healthy balance is struck between parkland dedications and land acquisitions by purchase. Existing parks are improved and well nurtured. Funding sources are varied, committed and stable. Community partnerships are strong and actively fostered.

RDNO and the City work together on the identification of parkland for sub-regional acquisition.

Trail development focuses on key links between existing trails, multi-modal transportation infrastructure and parks.





Parks Supply

The following section explores the existing parks supply and makes recommendations pertaining to each category of park. Athletic parks are more closely examined in the Outdoor Recreation Section of the Plan.

How much parkland do we have?

Overall, Vernon has a healthy supply of parkland based on a historic Canadian benchmark of 4 hectares of parkland per every 1000 people. Based on the existing supply of sub-regional and local parks, Vernon has 216 hectares of parkland. This analysis does not include School District Properties, Provincial Parks or land owned by the City that is not developed as park. With an assumed population

of 39,000 in 2015, the existing supply is 5.5 ha/1000 residents. In the year 2025, the projected population is expected to be approximately 44,000. Without adding any parkland to the existing supply over the next ten years, that still equates to a healthy supply of 4.9 ha/1000 residents.

*Current parkland supply =
2015: 5.5 ha/1000 residents*

*With no additions =
2025: 4.9ha/1000 residents*



Vernon has an additional 25.7 hectares of land either owned by the City for future park use or agreements are in place with land owners for future parkland dedications (example: Predator Ridge and The Rise) that would come on line over time.

What kind of parkland do we have?

Check out Appendix 1 and 3 of the Plan for an Existing Parks Inventory table and map identifying all existing parkland.

Below is a breakdown of the different park categories identifying existing supply and recommendations pertaining to the specific categories of parks. Policy recommendations for all parks are also provided in the Managing the System Section of the Plan.

Park Category	Amount in Hectares	% of Total Supply
Natural Areas	96	44%
Community Parks	26	12%
Neighbourhood Parks	20	9%
Urban Parks and Plazas	1	1%
Athletic Parks	73	34%



Park Categories

Natural Areas and Open Space:

44% of existing supply (96 hectares)



Parks contribute to the protection and connection of natural areas, sensitive ecosystems and wetlands. The system should aim to protect

and enhance biodiversity. The main purpose of Natural Area parks is to protect and preserve critical habitats while connecting Vernon residents to those habitats. These parks contribute to the ecological resilience of the community, preserve the natural environment and protect natural ecosystem functions. Though all parks should have an ecological function, the main purpose of these parks is to contribute to the natural health of the environment and the community.

Natural Areas and Open Space make up the largest category in the parks supply; however, the existing inventory categorizes lands in their

existing state, and many are natural areas with minimal improvements except trails. Some natural areas may lend themselves to additional improvements, where appropriate, to facilitate new uses and user groups. The lands surrounding the Laker's Clubhouse, for example, may be an area that could accommodate additional activities.

Connectivity is perhaps the most important aspect of habitat protection and preservation, something many of our parks currently lack. To better achieve connectivity, Natural Area parks should ideally be integrated with privately protected land to protect sensitive ecosystems and habitat, riparian areas along waterways and provide wildlife corridors. During the development process, the Official Community Plan, and more specifically the Environment Management Areas Strategy, aims to provide and facilitate protection measures, such as covenants, for sensitive areas.

There is a public desire throughout the region for a large natural park with the primary purpose of protecting sensitive and rare

Okanagan grasslands. The O’Keefe rangelands and the Commonage have been identified specifically as two of the top priority preservation areas from the public. Park uses would focus on limiting public access to protect sensitive areas, with trail systems provided for recreational use.



Recommendations:

- ❖ Support the protection of sensitive and rare Okanagan grasslands through the creation of a park, in partnership with RDNO, understanding that a park of this nature would benefit the entire region economically, socially and environmentally and that the land area required for such a park would likely require sub-regional involvement.
- ❖ Encourage environmental protection in Natural Areas through park design, management and monitoring
- ❖ Continue to work with local environmental organizations on park stewardship initiatives
- ❖ Enhance community awareness about the natural environment through interpretive signage in Natural Areas
- ❖ Acknowledge that Natural Area parks play a significant role in protecting drainage systems throughout the community
- ❖ Continue to work collaboratively with other levels of government to protect sensitive

areas and endangered species, such as establishing environmental stewardship on city owned lands where protection measures are desired

- ❖ Continue to work with the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program (OCCP) to share information and expertise that leads to further preservation of sensitive areas
- ❖ Continue to strive to protect and connect sensitive areas through parkland acquisition and private land protection mechanisms

Community Parks:

12 % of existing supply (26 hectares)



These destination parks serve the entire community and provide leisure opportunities for multiple users of all ages. They are generally supplied with

washrooms, access to drinking water and special amenities usually only found in one location in the city. They are often much larger in size than neighbourhood parks. These parks have a variety of uses and require a higher level of service than other parks.





Polson Park

Polson Park is the primary destination park in Vernon, and is often referred to as “the jewel” of the city. The land was originally donated by the Polson family in 1908 for a hospital, with the lower grounds later being developed into this public park. Bordered by Highway 97, Highway 6 and located just below the Vernon Jubilee Hospital, it acts as the entrance to the city and is filled with various activities, facilities and attractions. All ages enjoy Polson Park for its abundance of leisure activities which include a playground, water park, skateboarding, tennis, soccer, football, lawn bowling, running, concerts, picnicking, relaxing and wildlife viewing. Polson Park is also host to many large community events, such as the annual Canada Day celebration, which draws large crowds with music, activities and food.

A conceptual redevelopment plan for Polson Park was developed in 2010 by Catherine Berris Associates, under the auspices of the Regional District of North Okanagan and with the assistance of the City of Vernon. It presented a long term plan that was to be implemented over a 10 year period. The preliminary cost estimate for all phases of work was over \$10,000,000. The Polson Park redevelopment Plan was never formally endorsed.

From the community input, improvements would explore providing active uses for youth, upgrading the band shell and playground, signage throughout the park, solving drainage issues, alternative vehicular and pedestrian circulation routes, creek restoration, and alternative track locations, as well as improving visibility and fence and gate locations.

Based on the strong public feedback to see continued investment in Polson Park, the following is recommended:

- ❖ Continue to conduct incremental improvements to Polson Park, guided by the draft Polson Park Redevelopment Plan and based on annually approved budgets. Prioritize the development of an improved, more welcoming south entrance from the Polson Neighbourhood Centre
- ❖ Revise and complete the Polson Park Redevelopment Plan starting in 2016, with further community engagement, and re-phase the proposal to fit a \$3.5 million budget over 10 years to 2025
- ❖ Continue to aim to make Polson Park a place where park users feel safe, discourage negative use of the park while acknowledging that Community Parks are for everyone to enjoy
- ❖ Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Principles would be utilized when planning and designing park improvements





Lakeview Park

Lakeview Park is considered a community level park due to the high summer usage and the number of amenities found there: two ball diamonds, a playground, green space and popular the "Peanut Pool", a small outdoor pool designed primarily for children and unique in Vernon. While the park services the larger Vernon community, it also acts as a neighbourhood park for East Hill.

The feedback from public consultation held at this park showed a desire to add more benches, a picnic shelter, picnic tables and shade trees. The washroom, change room and lifeguard facility is in need of replacement. The addition of a picnic shelter is already planned and budgeted for in 2014. Additional recommendations for this park include:

- ❖ Redevelop the washroom facility, and move its location to allow easy surveillance for parents between both the playground and the pool, within 1-3 years
- ❖ Consider adding a food and beverage concession component to the new washroom facility for user enjoyment and increased potential revenue
- ❖ Consider the additions of spray park features to be incorporated with the peanut pool to increase use, enjoyment and overall capacity

- ❖ Plant and nurture shade trees around the pool and playground structures
- ❖ Develop and implement a tree succession planting program

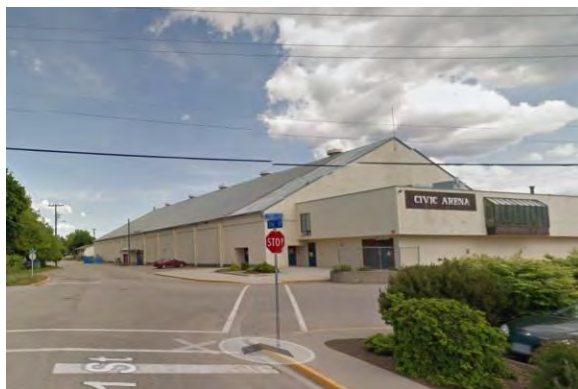


Lakeshore Drive (Proposed new Community Park)

The City owns 10 parcels on Lakeshore Drive, identified as future Community Park on the Parks Plan Map (Appendix 3). The Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre Plan envisions development of this neighbourhood in a way that improves public access to the lake while creating a vibrant mixed use neighbourhood centre. Central to this plan is the provision of additional park space on Lakeshore Road, as public investment and the provision of amenities in the area will help in attracting new development that is consistent with the vision. As so much redevelopment is targeted for this area, partnerships with developers may be an option to consider in the implementation of this park. The Development Cost Charge bylaw for parks offers opportunities for the development community to contribute to improvements in this park to receive DCC credits, ensuring that this significant amenity is completed in a timeframe that makes their projects more attractive to investors and buyers.

The following recommendations aim to support the community vision for this area:

- ❖ Continue land acquisition along the lake side of Lakeshore Road, focusing on the missing properties in the block where the City owns land (See the Implementation Plan - Appendix 5)
- ❖ During the review of the Parks Master Plan, assess the properties that have been purchased to date and explore the feasibility of purchasing additional properties on the lake side of Lakeshore Road for future park use that are not designated for park use in this plan.
- ❖ Develop a park design for the entire block of land designated as a future park, incorporating the proposed Lakeshore Trail and a variety of other uses that would attract residents from all over Vernon, contributing to this neighbourhood's intended role as a major destination in the City



Civic Arena Site (Proposed new Community Park)

The future of the Civic Arena site is not yet known. A referendum on the fate of the Civic Arena is expected in 2015. The site is designated as a park in the OCP and detailed policies are provided in the City Centre

Neighbourhood Plan. The site presents a unique opportunity to develop a large community park in the City Centre that not only provides additional public space in a highly urbanized area, but also acts as an additional amenity to promote redevelopment in this area. This park would provide for a variety of activities, to be identified through a comprehensive design process, with a focus on community input. The design of the park should aim to seamlessly integrate with the new Visitor Information Centre (VIC) and the 29th / 30th Street Transportation Corridor, and meet the needs of nearby residents, children, seniors, residents using active transportation, downtown employees and travellers visiting the VIC.

Additional recommendations for the Civic Arena site include:

- ❖ Given the size of the site, promote the use of the park as a destination for cultural events and activities
- ❖ Require a thorough CPTED analysis as part of the design, with due consideration for both the current and future land uses surrounding the park

Recommendations for all Community Parks

- ❖ Establish free WiFi service in all Community Parks
- ❖ Ensure access to washrooms and drinking water
- ❖ Ensure amenities consider all facets of the community: ages, abilities and access
- ❖ Work with stakeholders, community organizations and Recreation Services to program events, social activities, music, art and entertainment
- ❖ Evaluate and provide, as needed, playground, benches, picnic tables (with barbeque attachments), shade trees in

strategic locations and key trail linkages, acknowledging their importance for park enjoyment and use and providing key linkages between destinations

Sub-regional Community Parks include Kin Beach Park and Paddlewheel Park, the community's primary accesses to lake enjoyment. During the public engagement process, numerous comments were received regarding these parks. These comments have been compiled and forwarded to RDNO for information and consideration (once approved by Council).



Neighbourhood Parks:

9% of existing supply (20 hectares, 16 parks)

These parks often act as the heart of an individual neighbourhood and provide leisure and play opportunities. As they are smaller and serve residents in a much closer proximity than Community Parks, Neighbourhood Parks are often easily generally accessed by walking or biking but offer more common amenities such as playground structures, benches and picnic tables. They tend to accommodate shorter stays. These parks receive a moderate level of maintenance.

Vernon has 16 Neighbourhood parks making up 9% of the overall parkland supply.

- ❖ Follow the 10 year Playground Replacement Plan (Implementation Section) to ensure playground structures are regularly replaced, and added to, as needed.
- ❖ Follow the community input criteria (Managing the System Section) when replacing a playground structure to ensure new equipment serves the existing and expected demographics of the neighbourhood and creates community pride in the improvements
- ❖ Incorporate natural and adventure play features and Literacy in the Environment (LITE) where feasible, to playground designs
- ❖ Ensure benches, garbage receptacles, shade trees and signage are provided, updated and well maintained in all Neighbourhood Parks
- ❖ Where identified on the Parks Master Plan map, secure additional land for future Neighbourhood Parks via the development process, where feasible
- ❖ Incorporate Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design during the design or the replacement process, with particular focus on the natural surveillance from surrounding properties



Urban Parks and Plazas:

> 1% of existing supply (1 hectare)

Though these parks make up less than 1% of the total parks supply, they play a very important role in Vernon, particularly in the City Centre. Vernon's Urban Parks and Plazas, such as Spirit Square, the Civic Plaza and Justice Park (though provincially owned and managed), provide relief from the urban development surrounding them. They are often meeting places for downtown workers over lunch, stages for cultural performances and places for families to rest and relax as they visit the City Centre. Cenotaph Park provides a place to remember and respect Canada's veterans, as well as providing green space to complement the transit terminus. They are often characterized by a focus on highly detailed design and by having many activities and improvements on a smaller parcel of land. They often require and receive a higher level of maintenance.

As Vernon continues to grow, residential development will be encouraged in the City Centre, supported by policies in the City Centre Neighbourhood Plan and the OCP. Increased park space is required to achieve a high quality of life for City Centre residents and to ensure that the neighbourhood is a highly desired place to live, do business, shop and play. Improvements to existing parks will be required to keep those parks active, lively and safe, while

promoting the City Centre as a popular place for shoppers, visitors and business investment.

Recommendations

- ❖ Install a playground structure across from Cenotaph Park, adjacent to the Transit Terminus to provide play opportunities Downtown while making transit a more enjoyable transportation choice for families
- ❖ Acquire land for an Urban Park in Centerville, in anticipation of the high density residential development identified for that area. Construction of the park would follow significant redevelopment and build out of this area. Work closely with Partners in Action, the Social Planning Council for the North Okanagan and nearby social service agencies on a detailed design that incorporates CPTED principles, but remains a welcoming space for a variety of users
- ❖ Working with stakeholders, community organizations, the Downtown Vernon Association and Recreation Services, continue to support the events, social activities, music, art and entertainment in Community and Urban Parks
- ❖ Ensure opportunities for youth are provided in Urban Parks and Plazas
- ❖ Purchase pop-up park equipment to add whimsy to underutilized public space including specific areas within existing parks, vacant lots and road rights of way. Pop-up park equipment would include folding chairs and tables, planter boxes with plants and trees and various items people can play with. Establish a program where the public can request the equipment be placed in a specific location for a month at a time
- ❖ Support random acts of art that are temporary and do not take place on private property without the owner's consent, such

as yarn bombing and chalk drawing, working closely with Bylaw Enforcement

- ❖ Continue to encourage murals that showcase the talents of a variety of local artists and artistic styles to add colour and beauty to the cityscape
- ❖ Implement a public art policy, as per the City Centre Neighbourhood Plan, and encourage public art installations in Urban Parks and Plazas
- ❖ Consider adding music to Urban Parks, both live and recorded, to provide enjoyment and encourage use
- ❖ Encourage the introduction of food and beverage trucks and carts to Urban Parks and Plazas



Dog Parks

Dog Parks in Vernon are found within the following Neighbourhood Parks: Mission Hill Park, Heritage Park (through a School District lease) and Pioneer Park. Dog ownership is on the rise in many communities across Canada and offers many positive benefits, particularly for physical, mental and emotional health. The aging population is typically moving into smaller homes with less land or into multifamily units, and many of these residents own dogs. As parks are improved and new parks are created, space for dogs must be addressed.

Minimizing conflict between different user types in these parks is critical for everyone's safety. Dog enforcement plays a vital role in managing how people use these parks and balancing the needs of dog owners and other issues is a challenging, but achievable goal.

Additional consultation with Dog Park stakeholders is planned prior to the finalization of the Park Master Plan. More consultation with dog park users and the enforcement community is required.

- ❖ Explore a comprehensive Dog Park management strategy, including a related bylaw review, in collaboration with regional partners
- ❖ Ensure consistent and clear signage in all dog parks
- ❖ Establish a new Dog Park in the area designated for High Density Residential development in or close to the City Centre, with due consideration for the safety of adjacent users.
- ❖ Explore the implications of conducting dog enforcement in parks with City resources to improve results and provide an increased presence in parks to improve safety





Lake Access

The community has 45 lake access sites, typically in the form of road rights of way. A Community Lake Access Plan was developed and endorsed in 2005 outlining prioritized lake access site improvements and associated budget estimates. An annual budget amount for improvements was recommended but has not been implemented consistently. Five lake access sites have been improved over the last number of years. As lake access was identified as a top priority for the public, the Parks Master Plan proposes the following:

- ❖ Revise and update the Community Lake Access Plan to reflect the public desire to improve access to the lake

Lake access sites are not considered parks, but are rather access to recreation opportunities and lake enjoyment. The lake access sites are identified on the Implementation Plan (Appendix 5) as either improved lake access sites, boat launches or having planned improvements. This reflects the community's desire to continue to retain, protect and improve these sites.



Community Gardens

As Vernon continues to grow and increase the amount of residents living in multiple family developments with less access to garden space, community gardens play an important role in food security and leisure opportunities in the joy of planting and nurturing a garden. The existing community plots are popular and waitlists exist. RDNO manages the contracts to maintain the gardens and coordinates the programming, registration and fees for garden plots through Recreation Services.

- ❖ Continue to work with the RDNO for the delivery of Community Gardens for residents
- ❖ Implement the community garden space in the Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre in the vicinity of the Lakers Clubhouse area, within the Medium Term (4-6 years)
- ❖ Provide an additional community garden space, within Development District 1 or 2, within the Medium Term (4-6 years)
- ❖ Considerations for creating new Community Gardens include semi fertile land with the ability to build soil, appropriate vehicle and bike access and parking, available water servicing and a semi private location for the enjoyment of gardeners
- ❖ Continue to require dedicated open space in new multifamily developments for the use and enjoyment of their residents

Where is our parkland?

Now that we know how much we have and what kind of parkland it is, it is important to understand where it is. The following is a breakdown of the amount of parkland found in each Development District identified in the OCP.

DD1: City Centre



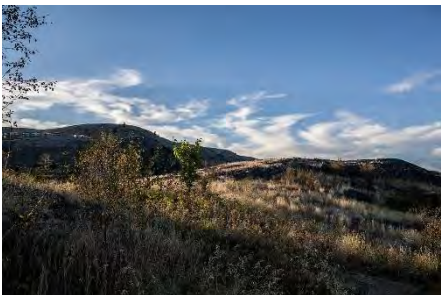
Existing 4.18 Ha or 2%
of the total parkland

DD2: Neighbourhood District



Existing 101.5 ha or
47% of the total parkland

DD3: Hillside Residential and Agricultural District



Existing 109.77 ha or
51% of the total parkland

The analysis above shows the need to focus parkland acquisition in Development District 1 and 2, to support the OCP and the desired growth of the community.



Can I walk to a park or trail?

The walkability of the parks system, including school sites, has been evaluated. A five and ten minute walking distance was created around parks, trail accesses and developed school district properties in developed areas of the city. Agricultural and rural areas were not included in the analysis as the lower densities do not warrant the same attention as built up, more dense neighbourhoods.

Check out the Walkability Map attached as Appendix 4.

This exercise helped identify areas that could be considered deficient in parkland. These areas are identified for future parkland acquisition on Appendix 5: the Implementation Plan.

Parkland Acquisition

Based on the parks supply and the community engagement result, parkland acquisition priorities have been identified to increase community access to parks and trails.

Parkland acquisition priorities are in the Implementation Section of the Plan and identified on the Implementation Plan (Appendix 5).



Considerations for parkland acquisition priorities include:

- ❖ The existing parks supply
- ❖ The Official Community Plan Growth Strategy
- ❖ The top community priorities: Trails and Pathways, Lake and Beach access, Natural Areas, Neighbourhood and Community parks
- ❖ Park deficient areas as seen in Appendix 3 and 4



Outdoor Recreation

The benefits of sport and play are endless. Getting people outside and active in all stages of life and interacting with others is critical to the overall health of our residents. People work hard in their daily lives and need opportunities to play. Inactivity and too much screen time are being blamed for an increasingly overweight and unhealthy population. Encouraging activity, whether programmed or spontaneous, improves health and wellness, facilitates human interaction and increases overall quality of life.

Parks and outdoor recreation are intertwined. Park visitors are often pursuing recreational activities that are highly dependent on the location, built outdoor facilities and

infrastructure provided in a park or on school grounds. This section explores outdoor recreation and sporting pursuits and provides recommendations to improve facilities and program planning.

Indoor recreation facilities are not included in this Plan. A Recreation Master Plan addressing community indoor recreation and facilities is expected to be initiated in 2015/2016.

Recreation Programming

Public Recreation and Programming

Recreation Services is responsible for the development, delivery and monitoring of public recreation facilities and programs for Greater Vernon that meet the needs of the community in a cost effective manner. To ensure this, new trends and best practices in recreation are researched and new programs are explored, proposed, delivered (depending on demand), monitored and evaluated. Fee structures aim to find a balance between revenue generation and program subsidies where community participation and access is challenged.

The Regional District of North Okanagan recently reviewed the recreation service delivery model for Greater Vernon Parks, Recreation and Culture, resulting in the new Greater Vernon Recreation Facilities and Programming Agreement. As a result, the City of Vernon took on responsibility for all aspects

of recreation in the Greater Vernon area including governance and ownership of recreation facilities. The agreement is a fee for service partnership with the Greater Vernon partners. The new governance structure gives the City of Vernon more flexibility and freedom to develop and provide services while still allowing the citizens of Areas B and C and the District of Coldstream to have equal access to facilities and programs.



Outdoor Recreation Strengths:

- ❖ Well supplied with outdoor recreation facilities
- ❖ A centralized outdoor facility booking system
- ❖ High demand for and participation in outdoor recreation programs
- ❖ Numerous private recreation programs offered

Outdoor Recreation Challenges:

- ❖ Aging outdoor facilities
- ❖ Competition and conflict between sports groups for facilities
- ❖ Summer program staffing
- ❖ Youth and senior program participation

Many businesses, individuals and organizations offer private recreation programs which add to the available services the public can access. Many of them use local parks to deliver

programs. Currently, there is no system in place for centralized information regarding these programs.



Athletic Parks

Athletic Parks include infrastructure that facilitates sporting activities. These parks are where we play baseball, softball, soccer, tennis, pickleball, football, horseshoes, lawnbowling, ultimate frisbee, lacrosse and where we ride skateboards, longboards, bikes of all kinds, scooters and in-line skates for enjoyment rather than for transportation.

These parks primarily have an athletic focus but often include playground structures that serve adjacent neighbourhoods or provide children the opportunity for play while family and friends are engaged in sporting activities. Washrooms and access to water are also provided in these parks as users tend to stay for longer periods of time.

Combined, sub-regional and local Athletic Parks aim to serve the athletic needs of the region, supplemented by the use of School District properties.



The total Athletic Parks supply is 72.9 ha in size, making up 34% of the current parkland supply.

Supply

Vernon is generally well supplied with outdoor recreation facilities based on the current population. Using midrange benchmarks, based on other communities across BC and Canada,

the key measured facility supply in Vernon is represented in the following table. Sub-regional parks, local parks and School District facilities are included in the analysis.

Facility Type and Mid-Range Benchmark	Mid-Range Target 2015 39,000 pop	Mid-Range Target 2025 44,000 pop	Existing Supply
Baseball 1/8500	5	5	4
Softball 1/4500	9	10	38
Sports Fields 1/4500	9	10	31 (10 full size)
Tennis 1/2500	16	18	14*

*8 of the courts have a poly surface and 6 do not

Vernon has a healthy supply of outdoor sports facilities but the overall quality could be improved and nurtured. Strategic upgrades must be planned and maintenance levels evaluated to ensure the supply adequately serves the community in a cost effective manner. At peak season in any sport, the demand for facilities is high, especially peak soccer times, the spring softball season and the fall football and lacrosse seasons. This is a good problem to have and can be managed with clear communication and collaboration between user groups in addition to some enhancements. For example, lighting for night use at certain fields may decrease the pressure on some facilities, especially in the spring and fall seasons. Parkland acquisition for new Athletic Parks is not likely required in the life of this plan. Rather, it is recommended that resources be directed to improving existing facilities.

The tennis facility supply in Vernon is under the mid-range benchmark but the neighbouring community of Coldstream is very well served

based on its population. Tennis players in the region often play in both communities so they are better served than the numbers above would suggest. Eight of the courts in Vernon have the desired poly surface finish and the remaining six are asphalt. There is also an added pressure on sports courts with the increasing popularity of pickleball. There is not yet a dedicated pickleball facility in Vernon or Greater Vernon. There are currently four tennis courts that double as 16 pickleball courts which puts added pressure on dual use courts.



Each Athletic Park is analyzed in greater detail below

Local Athletic Parks

Park	Size (ha)	Features
Alexis Park	1.6	16 horseshoe pitches with lighting, horseshoe clubhouse, 1 softball diamond, washrooms, playground
BMX Ranger Park	0.76	BMX Park, washrooms and clubhouse/storage building
Grahame Park	4.3	2 sports fields, 3 ball diamonds, 5 basketball courts, washroom, playground. This park is shared with Fulton Secondary School, restricting hours of use for residents. Maintenance of the fields are shared with the School District
Kin Race Track	19.2	Home of Kal Tire Place, 4 softball diamonds, Equestrian Race Track, washroom building Kin Race Track provides the opportunity for more outdoor recreation uses; however, planning cannot take place until legal issues surrounding the Equestrian Race Track are resolved. Kin Race Track was always envisioned to accommodate additional recreation activities. The location and size of the property, as well as existing amenities, such as parking and washrooms associated with Kal Tire Place, invite additional recreational uses.
Lakeview Park (Community/Athletic Park)	2	2 baseball diamonds, children's pool ("Peanut Pool"), washroom/change room/lifeguard office building, playground Please see recommendations for this park under the Community Parks Section.
MacDonald Park	2.6	2 tennis courts and 8 pickleball courts (shared use), 2 full size soccer fields or 4 small, washroom/concession/clubhouse building
Rotary Skateboard Park (Polson Park)	1.5	Skateboard park



Recommendations

The following recommendations are predicated on the public consultation process, a high level review of the Athletic Park inventory and widely considered best practices. An annual work plan has been developed for Council's consideration, as referred to in the Implementation Section of this plan.

Recreation

- ❖ Continue to offer the Park and Play summer program where recreation staff provide activities in high profile parks.
- ❖ Create a simple permitting system to use quiet streets for games and to allow block parties.
- ❖ Continue to work with sports user groups to minimize scheduling conflicts and ensure fairness and equity for facility bookings.
- ❖ Establish a booking system, for a minimal fee, for private recreation programs delivered in parks to track use, help communication and assist in linking residents to programs.
- ❖ Continue to work with seniors and youth to develop programs and encourage increased participation.
- ❖ Park amenities should be provided with aspects that increase potential park use, enjoyment and recreation opportunities:
 - Provide free WiFi in Community Parks and Urban Parks and Plazas
 - Install picnic tables with BBQ attachments to encourage more picnics at parks
 - Provide benches where longer walks are taken, near playgrounds or interesting views exist
 - Make washrooms accessible for a longer season

Athletic

- ❖ Conduct an outdoor sports facility condition assessment and recommend an associated maintenance and upgrade schedule to maintain and repair existing facilities.
- ❖ Work with RDNO to ensure sub-regional Athletic Parks are upgraded as necessary and well maintained.
- ❖ Continue to work with sports user groups to minimize scheduling conflicts and ensure fairness and equity for facility bookings.
- ❖ Upgrade, replace or renovate washroom facilities in Athletic Parks as necessary.
- ❖ Evaluate the irrigation system for outdoor sports facilities and develop a schedule for upgrades and improvements to more effectively manage and maintain the system over time, including more efficient use of water.
- ❖ Acknowledge that no additional land acquisition is required for Athletic Park use given the existing inventory.
- ❖ Once the primary uses of the Kin Race Track site and Kal Tire Place are resolved, a comprehensive Athletic Park design should be developed including outdoor recreation facilities currently missing from the parks supply.



Proposed Athletic/Recreation Project Recommendations

- ❖ Expand youth related uses west of the Rotary Skateboard Park in Polson Park; most specifically consider, with input from youth, a concrete pump track for multi-use and a basketball court. Include lighting for night use along the north side of Polson Park. The area is well suited to these uses, has good visibility and is close to amenities and services.
- ❖ Consider outdoor recreation and athletic uses as part of the Polson Park Redevelopment Plan.
- ❖ Develop a 9 hole Disc Golf Course at Lakers Park in the short term (1-3 years) with assistance from the Disc Golf Vernon Club and community consultation.
- ❖ Work with North Okanagan Cycling Society to develop a bike skills park, in three phases, on the Airport Lands south of Vernon Creek, adjacent to Marshall Fields and Lakers Park.
- ❖ Develop an 8 court dedicated Pickleball facility, with room for possible future expansion, considering Lakers Park, the Airport Lands south of Vernon Creek and Kin Race Track as potential locations, within the short to medium term (1-6 years).
- ❖ Create additional parking at Lakers Park in the vacant area to the south of the existing clubhouse and parking lot to serve all the proposed recreation uses in area, the Lakers Clubhouse and beach users.
- ❖ Resurface asphalt tennis courts with a poly surface overtime and include dual-use for Pickleball, where appropriate, starting with Sawicki Park in the short term (1-3 years), to continue to upgrade the existing supply of tennis courts.
- ❖ Develop two additional tennis courts and a concrete practice wall within Development District 1 or 2 within the long term (7-10 years).



Sub-Regional Athletic Parks

The largest athletic outdoor recreation facilities in Vernon are managed and owned by the Regional District. Recommendations regarding these facilities, based on public and stakeholder feedback, will be provided to RDNO as part of the Parks Master Plan process. Vernon will continue to work with RDNO to ensure sub-regional Athletic Parks help serve residents' recreational needs.

Marshall Fields

16.25 ha, 5 full size soccer fields, 4 tennis courts, 2 baseball diamonds, On-leash dog walking area and trails.



Marshall Fields provides the most well used soccer and tennis facilities in the North Okanagan. There are also two baseball diamonds. The Vernon Soccer Association

manages and owns an indoor soccer facility on the property, adjacent to the outdoor soccer pitches, with washrooms accessible from the outside of the building to serve the park.

This park is well used and not surprisingly, garnered the most feedback of any athletic park in the public consultation process. Public feedback surrounded desired field upgrades, increased maintenance, minimizing dog and park user conflicts as well as desired repair of the tennis courts pavement. All the feedback has been given to the Regional District for consideration.

Marshall Fields is located in the Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre, envisioned to develop as a mixed use village centre with both residential and commercial components. In addition, more residential development is anticipated to the south of the park, making Marshall Fields a likely destination for many more residents in the future. The Airport lands south of Vernon Creek and Lakers Clubhouse properties are also adjacent to Marshall Fields.

Department of National Defence (DND) Army Camp

27.3 ha, 10 softball diamonds, 3 large playing fields, playground, a dog park and washrooms.



DND is the region's major softball facility and is the park that hosts the large softball tournament, Funtastic, every summer. The land is leased to RDNO by the Department of National Defence. This presents some uncertainty of the future use of the land, however, there is no indication that the lease may not be renewed in the future.



School District Properties

The community is dependent on School District properties to supplement the outdoor recreation facility and parks supply. A Joint Use understanding between RDNO, the City and School District has been in place for a long time, with programming and booking support provided by Recreation Services. This understanding has worked well in the past but should be formalized to clarify roles, expectations, responsibilities and provide some level of surety regarding resident usage of School District properties. The City will continue to work with the School District to formalize an agreement that aims to suit all parties and benefit the community.



Trails

Trails provide opportunities for Vernon residents to get outside, enjoy nature and be active. These trails are distinct from other pathways in the city, as they are used primarily for recreation rather than for transportation. A well developed, robust and connected trail network provides access to key destinations, such as school and work, but also provides additional recreation options that link residents to parks and the unique local environment.



The City of Vernon is responsible for local trails within the city. The Grey Canal Trail and the BX Creek Trail are sub-regional trails and are managed by the Regional District of North Okanagan. The guidance and details pertaining to trail development in Vernon come from both the Pedestrian and Bike Master Plan and the Ribbons of Green Trail Society Trails Plan. Both documents were recently updated and endorsed by Council in 2014.

These two guiding documents outline a vision for the trail network for the next 20 years, while the Parks Master Plan is a 10 year plan. Given the differing timeframes, the trail network as outlined in this plan would be constructed in the next 10 years only, with due consideration for taking action on other components of the trail network should the opportunity arise. The implementation of other trails, pathways and sidewalks that are identified mainly for transportation purposes are addressed in the Pedestrian and Bike Master Plan.



The Grey Canal Trail and the BX Creek Trail are sub-regional. Continued trail development and connections are a high priority for the public.

The land for trails can be acquired in many different ways. Where a trail network is proposed on a property that is developing, it may be possible to have the trail provided as part of a development, provided by the land owner. In other situations, purchase of land or a right of way for a trail may be required. Other options for acquiring and constructing trails may be realized through agreements with various community organizations or volunteer groups.



Trail Projects

Both the Pedestrian and Bike Master Plan and the Ribbons of Green Trails Plan are complementary documents that identify trail networks that connect the community through a variety of trails. The Pedestrian and Bike Master Plan focuses on the pathways used primarily for transportation, while this plan focus is on the recreational trails. The larger local trail systems and proposed trail projects are summarized below:

Check out the Implementation Plan (Appendix 5) for more information

Foothills Ravine Trail

(~1.2 kilometres)

Short Term 1-3 years

The Silver Star Foothills neighbourhood is characterized by a number of steep slopes and ravines that have been acquired by the City of Vernon as wildlife corridors and drainage features. Both the Ribbons of Green Trails Plan and the Foothills Neighbourhood Plan identify a trail system linked to the ravines as a major component to improve connectivity in the neighbourhood and provide residents with access to trails with beautiful views of the city

and the valley. As the land is owned by the City, construction of the trail within the 10 year life of this plan is feasible.

Lower Commonage Trail:

(~ 4.0 kilometres – parallels future road)

Phased Short to Long Term (1-10 years)

This trail network would provide excellent views of Okanagan Lake and the Bella Vista Range, while connecting to existing trails in the area. Initial phases of network would be constructed in the following stages within the 10 year life of the plan:

- ❖ Bench Row Road to Longacre Drive, providing a walking connection between Bench Row Road and the Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre via Longacre Drive.
- ❖ Mission Hill connection to the existing Commonage Trail, through to Valley View neighbourhood with a connection to the existing Commonage Trail connecting Okanagan Avenue to the Jack Schratter Trail.
- ❖ Bench Valley View Trail, running along the ridge near Bench Row Road, connecting Longacre Drive and the connecting trail to the existing Commonage Trail at Okanagan Avenue at Fulton Road, with several other access points considered for phased development beyond the 10 year life of the plan.

Bella Vista Trail Phase 1

(~500 metres)

Medium to Long Term (4-10 years)

This trail would provide a direct connection from Bella Vista Road near Okanagan Hills Boulevard through the Lakeview neighbourhood to Kin Beach.

Lakeshore Trail Phase 1

(~500 metres)

Phased Short to Long Term (1-10 years)

The Lakeshore Trail is proposed to run along Okanagan Lake from the southern boundary of I.R. #6 to Paddlewheel Park. Much of the land for this trail would be provided as development along the waterfront proceeds, and the completion of the trail is well beyond the life of this plan. Once completed, this trail would offer residents an opportunity to stroll along the lake and access the various amenities. The first phase of this trail, which would form part of the proposed Lakeshore Community Park, would extend as far west as the existing Strand

development and would be completed during the life of this plan. Future phases would be undertaken as development proceeds in the neighbourhood.

Vernon Creek Trail

(~500 metres)

Medium Term (4-6 years)

This trail would follow Vernon Creek along its south side from Polson Park to Okanagan Lake. Much of the property required to develop the trail is privately owned, meaning the ultimate development of this trail would require property dedication as part of redevelopment, which would likely take place over many years, beyond the life of this plan. A portion of this trail is located on City owned property between Marshall Fields and Cummins Road, and could be constructed within the 10 year life of the plan.

Allan Brooks Trail

(550 metres)

Long Term (7-10 years)

A trail connection between Clerke Road and the Allan Brooks Nature Centre would not only offer spectacular views of the city, Coldstream Valley and the Monashee Mountains beyond, but would provide greater access to all of the educational services that the Allan Brooks Nature Centre offers. This trail would link easily to the Jack Schratter Trail, extending that network even further.

In addition to the trails listed above, other trails would be acquired and constructed via the development process in neighbourhoods such as Bella Vista West, Foothills and Predator Ridge. Other smaller trail connections identified in the Pedestrian and Bike Master Plan would be explored as well.



Recommendations

- ❖ Support the continued incremental development of the trail network to provide connectivity between existing trails (both transportation and recreation) and the parks system in general.
- ❖ Establish trail design standards to ensure that the trail system is safe, accessible and affordable to build and maintain, recognizing that different contexts for trails will require different and unique design solutions and finishing.
- ❖ Incrementally install distance markers on high use trails and trail loops.
- ❖ Ensure that property required for local and sub-regional trail development is provided, where possible, through the development and subdivision process.
- ❖ Include trail development within larger parks for a variety of users as park amenities and to provide connectivity.
- ❖ Where feasible, acquire land for trails as part of the development process, consistent with the Official Community Plan, Neighbourhood Plans and the Pedestrian and Bike Master Plan.
- ❖ Incorporate Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) elements into the design and maintenance of trails.
- ❖ Continue to work closely with the Ribbons of Green Trails Society and other community organizations that play a role in the development of trails.
- ❖ Explore the establishment of formal partnerships with local organizations or community groups to construct and act as stewards for trails.
- ❖ Develop clear and consistent signage and maps, including distance markers, for the trail system.
- ❖ Work with partners to develop and update regional trail maps.



Managing the System

The following section outlines the overall management principles for the entire parks system. A thoughtful, consistent approach is desired to uphold the principles the public would like to see for a well-managed and maintained system that increases the overall function and enjoyment of parks. The standard of maintenance in parks affects community pride and ultimately how people feel about parks, how they use them and how they treat them. At the same time, the management of the parks system must be financially sustainable, and consider the long term financial implications of the desired level of service.

How parks are designed, how they are maintained and how people use them all impact how safe they are and how they are perceived. When parks are not being maintained at a level that is acceptable, negative behaviours can ensue. Safety can also be addressed by using Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) when designing and upgrading parks. For example, removing fences and other barriers so that entrance ways are more inviting, increasing visibility, removing graffiti in a timely manner, promoting natural surveillance on the park or trail and designing the park with maximum sightlines from one area to another, are all CPTED principles that are desirable within each park.

Through the public consultation process, Vernon residents also recommended that there be increased enforcement and patrolling (by vehicle, bike and on foot) for safety reasons, especially in underutilized areas.



Park Maintenance and Amenities

The following section outlines the management policies and amenities to be provided for in each park classification.



Natural Areas and Open Spaces

- ❖ Site specific grass seed mixtures require a site specific weed control plan for effective establishment
- ❖ Pathway designs and locations should provide adequate accessibility

- ❖ No lighting of the naturalized area will occur
- ❖ Trees and plantings are to be native to the area
- ❖ All site amenities should be selected and designed to achieve site specific naturalization objectives
- ❖ Trail signs should be consistent and interpretive signage should be direct
- ❖ No irrigation is to be provided in these parks



Community Parks

- ❖ The grass in these parks is currently cut once a week and the summer garbage collection happens daily. Garbage collection is reduced throughout the winter months.
- ❖ Community Parks receive the highest level of maintenance as they provide a more varied and higher concentration of amenities
- ❖ Larger community parks with more amenities should have wayfinding signage at entrances to guide people to these amenities
- ❖ Irrigation should be placed near playground areas, athletic fields and amenities, however, it should be restricted in the other park areas

- ❖ Tree coverage should be higher in Community Parks than Neighbourhood Parks given the difference in size and uses
- ❖ Decorative landscaping is generally provided at entrances and around higher use areas
- ❖ Washroom replacement and redevelopment should be evaluated on a site by site basis
- ❖ Ensure adequate vehicular and bike parking is provided
- ❖ Ensure that walking routes are established throughout parks
- ❖ Involve potential users and the public in developing designs or upgrading parks or amenities



Neighbourhood Parks

- ❖ The grass cutting within these parks happens once a week and garbage collection occurs daily. Garbage collection is reduced throughout the winter months.
- ❖ All landscaped areas are to be irrigated
- ❖ Asphalt walkways (2m) are provided to amenities located within the park
- ❖ Deciduous trees should be planted with a minimum standard of 60mm diameter, with high branches
- ❖ Benches should be primarily located adjacent to playground structures and in other appropriate locations

- ❖ Trash receptacle locations must be accessible for park users and consider ease of maintenance
- ❖ Public consultation and neighbourhood demographics will inform the range of play equipment provided



Urban Parks & Plazas

- ❖ Maintenance and garbage collection in Urban Parks is monitored closely, occurring daily and on an as needed basis.
- ❖ Urban Park design should include a system and/or establishment water plan for three seasons, post construction completion, and the system/plan must include water source.
- ❖ 2-3m wide asphalt/ concrete/unit pavers shall be used for walkways
- ❖ Lighting of the park depends on a site by site basis – criteria to review safety (CPTED), adjacent site lighting, etc.
- ❖ Electrical service is intended to be provided in parks for events, as determined by need, frequency of events, etc.
- ❖ Attractive planting beds are required with most deciduous tree plantings
- ❖ Provide benches, trash receptacles, park signage, bike racks and access to WiFi



Local Athletic Parks

- ❖ Grass maintenance occurs twice a week, with the garbage cycles being closely monitored due to events and scheduling. Winter garbage cycles still occur, however, happen less frequently
- ❖ Perform a condition assessment on all local sports fields and ball diamonds to inform the development of a comprehensive repair and maintenance schedule to ensure facilities meet user expectations and use water as efficiently as possible
- ❖ Work with sports user groups to develop an acceptable field rotation schedule to rest sports facilities as a preventative maintenance initiative
- ❖ Evaluate the condition, supply and accessibility of parking at Athletic Parks
- ❖ Explore the installation of lights on existing fields and ball diamonds to accommodate sports user groups in peak seasons
- ❖ Provide playground structures in Athletic Parks
- ❖ Installation of washrooms and access to drinking water should be considered on a site by site basis
- ❖ Continue to support local groups who manage facilities on local parkland, such as the horseshoe and lawn bowling clubs

- ❖ Continue to develop athletic uses, with lighting for night use, at the front of Polson Park geared towards youth related activities



Dog Parks

- ❖ Fence only the off leash dog areas
- ❖ Explore the option for City Bylaw staff to administer dog enforcement
- ❖ Introduce more benches along the perimeter and at high points in the area
- ❖ Create standard dog park entrance signage
- ❖ Explore the ability to install trees for shade within these areas
- ❖ Where private property backs against dog parks, there should be a chain link fence installed along the property line to City standards
- ❖ Identify effective gate options leading into the dog park compounds

Increase Maintenance Levels

Ensure that adequate operating funds are available to maintain new parks and outdoor recreation facilities. For every new park of 3.0 hectares (7.4 acres) at a community park maintenance level, the City of Vernon's maintenance program needs to increase by one Full Time Equivalent (FTE).



Park Improvement Specifications

The following is a list of standards and best practices specific to various landscape and amenity features in parks and open spaces.

Irrigation

The Okanagan Valley is a semi-arid region, yet is one of the highest users of water in the world, using considerably more water than the Canadian average. The region is also susceptible to droughts, and climate change projections suggest that precipitation may become less predictable. Reducing water use in the region is important to address the challenges that climate change is likely to present. At the same time, Vernon residents expect that their parks are beautiful places to spend time in and that they are maintained to a high standard. Providing residents with

pleasant park spaces while minimizing water use, however, is achievable.

- ❖ Incorporate xeriscaping into park design where feasible to minimize water use and the cost of irrigation infrastructure
- ❖ New projects and upgrades will require a properly structured soil profile to assure a sufficient volume of soil to provide optimal holding capacity for plant water requirements
- ❖ Inspections of installed systems will ensure that water is applied in appropriate amounts as intended by the design
- ❖ Irrigation designs should provide the most practical and efficient water delivery system for the site
- ❖ When irrigation installations or modifications are anticipated, site drainage

- ❖ should be assessed and improved if necessary
- ❖ Standard equipment and materials should be used to simplify operations and maintenance of the system
- ❖ Sprinkler head selection will be limited to the highest quality, lowest maintenance and vandal resistant options
- ❖ Design separate irrigation zones for different landscapes such as slopes, soil and plant material
- ❖ All parks or open space designed without an irrigation system must include a plan for plant establishment watering including method and a source of water

Washrooms and Drinking Fountains

The provision of washrooms and drinking fountains in parks is an important part of increasing the public's enjoyment and use of those parks. Washrooms in particular encourage people to stay in parks longer than they would otherwise. Poorly designed or located public washrooms, however, can attract undesirable activities, making the park a less pleasant place to visit. Careful consideration of the design of washrooms is critical to realizing the benefits they can bring to a park.

- ❖ Washrooms and drinking fountains should be provided in Community and Athletic Parks where users will stay for longer periods of time. The provision of washrooms and fountains in urban parks and plazas should be evaluated on a site by site basis
- ❖ Perform a CPTED review of the location and the design of new washroom facilities as part of the design process

- ❖ Maintenance and replacement of washroom and fountain facilities should follow the replacement program in the Implementation Section
- ❖ Explore the ability to increase the amount of drinking water fountains in parks
- ❖ Explore the feasibility of providing access to washrooms for a longer season in select Community Parks
- ❖ One stall in each washroom (male and female) will be handicap accessible

Parking

Park space is valuable, so finding the right balance between providing adequate parking and maximizing the amount of land for recreational uses in a park is often a challenge. The amount of parking that should be provided depends greatly on the type of park, the amenities available, the availability of other transportation modes like transit, surrounding land uses and other factors. Zoning Bylaw #5000 requires a minimum number of parking stalls in parks, based on the size of the park, but greater flexibility with these regulations may be required to find the best design solution to parking, depending on the park's unique features and context.

- ❖ For every 25 vehicle parking spaces, at least 1 should be a handicap accessible parking stall. The location of these parking stalls will be located closest to the facilities
- ❖ Explore amendments to Zoning Bylaw #5000 to establish parking standards that reflect the variety of existing and proposed parks in Vernon



Playgrounds

Playgrounds are a vital part of childhood that help children develop physical strength, coordination and balance. Creating a safe play environment is essential so children can play, learn and develop new skills.

- ❖ Adventurous and nature based play will be met in the majority of all new designs
- ❖ Community consultation is desired in the process of installing a new or upgrading an existing playground structure
- ❖ The Park Playground Development and Replacement Plan looks at improving/replacing or adding to playgrounds in various parks. Please see the implementation Section of the Plan
- ❖ Play areas shall not be located in low areas where water may collect
- ❖ All play areas shall meet CSA standards and have at least one handicap accessible play component
- ❖ Explore the need for alternative mulch surface, such as rubberized material
- ❖ Incorporate LITE – Literacy in the Environment, for future playgrounds and parks

LITE is based on the premise that placing foundational reading experiences in play spaces will support the development of literacy skills.

Benches/Picnic Tables/Trash Receptacles

Creating a location for the whole family within parks and along trails often involves seating areas, a place to rest and relax. Whether these areas include picnic tables or benches, people will visit with others stay longer when seating areas are provided.

- ❖ Provide an appropriate number of benches and picnic tables in all parks to increase park user enjoyment
- ❖ Explore the creation of a community supported memorial program for benches and trees
- ❖ Standard bench design should be established
- ❖ All amenities should be designed/selected to be durable, not prone to fading, vandal-resistant easily fixed or re-painted
- ❖ Benches and picnic tables should be located around the high traffic areas, e.g. playgrounds and areas in high use dog parks
- ❖ Increase the number of garbage and recycling receptacles in parks
- ❖ Explore expanding the frequency of trash pick up and extending the season the service is provided
- ❖ Trash receptacles should be located primarily at entranceways and high use play areas. However, trash receptacles should not be placed closer than 2.0m from park benches or play equipment to avoid stinging insects and odours



Trees and Shrubs

Thoughtful tree and shrub species selection in combination with good planting practices helps to achieve the best long term outcomes for our urban forest, protecting the public's investment in those plants and reducing the costs of unnecessary maintenance and replacement. While the selection of tree species should always take into consideration the unique context of each park, there are a number of best practices that should be considered.

- ❖ Continue to promote and plant native, low maintenance plant species
- ❖ Tree species native to British Columbia should be considered for all landscape designs
- ❖ Landscape design should consider both a mix of deciduous and coniferous species with a variety of genera and species. Aim for 40% coniferous and 60% deciduous within a park
- ❖ To ensure a more resilient landscape, there shall be no more than 25% from any single genus in each park
- ❖ Introduce edible plants into local parks
- ❖ Setback standards to be established to property lines, roadways, etc.

Pest & Weed Management

Pest management and weed control can be controversial practices. The City of Vernon acknowledges the need to balance pest and weed management with safety concerns raised regarding pesticide use. Currently the City is operating under the RDNO 1996 adopted Pest Management Plan, however, a new pest management plan will be explored that is in line with current best practices.

Signage and Park Naming

The existing park signage design and content is currently inconsistent. Different materials, fonts, colours and messaging cause confusion amongst park users regarding park management and rules, often creating challenges for bylaw enforcement. Some signs are also high maintenance and need to be replaced regularly. In addition, there is currently no City policy in place to establish names for new parks.

- ❖ A standard park sign design should be developed that is attractive, branded, consistent and readable with low maintenance. These signs should clearly demonstrate park uses and function
- ❖ A sign replacement program should be developed and incorporated into the regular budgeting process to ensure all parks signage is consistent and readable
- ❖ Develop a park naming policy that provides clear direction for the selection of names for parks and trails



Implementation

To realize the vision set forth in the Parks Master Plan, an approach to project funding and phasing is required that is realistic and achievable. The implementation strategy is designed to nurture the existing parks system, while acquiring new lands in priority areas and also developing the desired amenities that the community indicated were missing.

The proposed implementation strategy is based on existing policies, emerging trends, community demographics, demand analysis, community partnerships and the public engagement results. Project phasing, cost estimates and varied sustainable funding mechanisms are provided below and are all key aspects required for the successful implementation of the Parks Master Plan.



Park Land Acquisitions and Leases

To proceed with developing various desired park and trail projects and to keep pace with expected population growth and demographic shifts, additional lands for park uses are required. Land acquisition priorities are identified in this plan that address growth while complementing the growth strategy outlined in the OCP. Land acquisitions would be facilitated through the various funding sources outlined below, through dedications during development processes and through gifting and donations.

Properties and priority areas in the City Centre, the Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre and other areas of the community identified as deficient in parkland are the focus of land acquisition for local parks. The estimated total cost of these property acquisitions is approximately \$4.8 million; however, not all lands would need to be purchased. It is recommended that \$3.5 million be allocated for land acquisitions over the 10 year life of the Plan. These areas have been identified in Appendix 5.

Parkland acquisition priorities include:



High Priority

- ❖ Lakeshore Drive waterfront lots, focusing on the intervening lands between City

owned parcels (three in total). Lots north of the blocks owned by the City will be a lower priority.

- ❖ Completing the Civic Arena block, depending on the outcome of the anticipated Civic Arena referendum in 2015.
- ❖ Land lease opportunities in park deficient, developed neighbourhoods.



Medium Priority

- ❖ Parkland acquisition in high density multifamily designated areas within the City Centre Neighbourhood, specifically Centreville, and the adjacent area to the west, in Development District 2.
- ❖ Key trail connections to trail networks.

Low Priority

- ❖ Park deficient, developed neighbourhoods where land can be secured through adjacent development.

Parkland can be obtained through: the subdivision process, gifting and purchased through revenue sources including Development Cost Charges, the Parkland Reserve Fund, surplus land sales and tax revenues.



Parks and Trails Projects: Phasing Plan

In addition to parkland acquisition, a series of projects in existing and future parks have been identified for the next 10 years. A phasing plan for these parks is organized into three categories: short term (1-3 years), medium term (4-6 years), and long term (7-10 years). The recommendations are based on several considerations:

- ❖ analysis of existing park inventory
- ❖ background research
- ❖ parks and recreation trends
- ❖ best practices
- ❖ public survey responses
- ❖ stakeholder input
- ❖ public consultation event feedback
- ❖ anticipated financial capacity

The proposed timeframes are meant to be flexible. Should the opportunity arise from available grants, outside contributions, or development driven completion of a project, Council may consider completing a project sooner than its suggested timeframe. These projects will require capital funding as well as other funding strategies to realize these improvements. With the addition of new assets, it is important that an adaptive management approach be established and operational cost impacts are considered each year.



Short Term Recommendations (1-3 years)

The goal in the short term is to limit the need for substantially increased investments in parks while developing new amenities on existing City owned land, maintaining adequate service levels for the community and having little impact on operational costs. The proposed construction projects are also anticipated to receive significant contributions from community organizations. These identified projects are high priority items for direct implementation.



Parks Design, Planning and Policy Development

- ❖ Develop a Master Plan for Lakeshore Park, contingent on phased implementation, anticipated property acquisitions and development driven contributions
- ❖ Develop a Master Plan for the Civic Arena block, depending on the results of the 2015 Civic Arena referendum

- ❖ Establish City of Vernon Park specifications standards
- ❖ Establish City of Vernon Park signage standards and replacement program
- ❖ Develop a Park/Trail Naming Policy
- ❖ Develop a park design and development plan for the Canadian Lakeview Estates Park (CLD Park)



Project Construction

- ❖ Install and replace playground equipment and surfacing at the Park at the Transit Terminus, Mission Hill Park, Alexis Park, Heritage Park and Polson Park
- ❖ Design and construct a Disc Golf course on the Lakers Clubhouse lands, in coordination with spadefoot habitat protection and enhancement
- ❖ Resurface the Sawicki Park tennis courts with a poly surface and include dual use line painting for pickleball
- ❖ Upgrade baseball diamond fencing
- ❖ Reconstruct washrooms at Lakeview Park
- ❖ Lakeshore Park Phase 1

Trail Construction

- ❖ Expand and improve the trail network within local Parks
- ❖ Design and construct trails associated with the ravine lots at Foothills
- ❖ Upgrade the existing Becker Park trail system
- ❖ Improve the south entrance of Polson Park

Medium Term Recommendation (4-6 years)

In the medium term, the plan suggests slightly more aggressive investment in the parks system and finalizing park specific Master Plans for key redevelopment areas.



Parks Design, Planning and Policy Development

- ❖ Complete the Polson Park Master Plan
- ❖ Perform a 5 year review of the Parks Master Plan
- ❖ Explore Dog Park enforcement options
- ❖ Develop a Park and Trail Map

Project Construction

- ❖ Complete Polson Park Phase 1 improvements
- ❖ Complete Civic Arena block Phase 1 improvements
- ❖ Complete CLD Phase 1 improvements
- ❖ Continue Phased improvements on Lakers Clubhouse and Airport lands
- ❖ Construct onsite parking adjacent to Lakers Clubhouse
- ❖ Upgrade public washrooms as required
- ❖ Replace and add playground equipment and resurfacing to Kimura Tot Lot and Sawicki Park
- ❖ Construct dedicated Pickleball courts



Trail Construction

- ❖ Construct Valley View Place trail connection to Commonage pathway in Mission Hill neighbourhood
- ❖ Construct Phase 1 of the Lower Commonage Trail Network
- ❖ Construct the Vernon Creek Trail between Marshall Fields and Okanagan Lake



Long Term Recommendations (7-10 years)

In the long term, the Plan suggests concentrating on the construction works in the previous years' park specific master planning projects. As it is recommended that the Parks Master Plan be revised after five years, the funding strategy would also be revised based on successful land acquisitions, park dedications and project estimates.



Parks Design, Planning and Policy Development

- ❖ Various policy and park specific Master Plan refinements
- ❖ Re-evaluate funding strategy
- ❖ Design Cenotaph Park improvements
- ❖ Refine the Civic Plaza redevelopment plan



Park Construction

- ❖ Construct Phase 2 improvements to Polson Park
- ❖ Upgrade public washrooms as required

- ❖ Upgrade playground equipment at Armory Park and Grahame Park
- ❖ Install sports field lighting
- ❖ Construct two additional tennis courts within Development District 1 or 2
- ❖ Lakeshore Park Phase 2
- ❖ Upgrade Civic Plaza

Trail Construction

- ❖ Construct the Trail between Clerke Road and the Allan Brooks Nature Centre
- ❖ Construct the Lakeshore Trail throughout Lakeshore Park to the Strand Phase 1
- ❖ Construct Phase 1 of the Bella Vista Trail, from 41st Avenue to Allenby Way

A total of 31 capital projects are recommended during the anticipated life of the Parks Master Plan. Smaller investments in wayfinding signage, trees, benches and picnic tables are not included in the Phasing Plan as these items are considered ongoing.



Table 1 - Parks and Trails Project Phasing Plan, shown below, outlines the estimated budget amounts for each proposed project based on today's construction rates. The cost levels indicated are estimates only and would need to be refined as more detailed capital programs and budgets are developed. Each year staff would review the capital recommendations and prepare detailed strategies for funding and implementation of priority projects for Council's consideration

Table 1 – Parks and Trails Project Phasing Plan

Proposed Park Projects	Time Frame (yrs)	Budget Amount	Anticipated Outside Contributions	Total Cost
Transit Terminus Park	1-3 years	\$55,000	\$5,000	\$60,000
Disc Golf Course Design and Build	1-3 years	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$35,000
Spade Foot Toad Habitat Enhancement and Signage	1-3 years	\$15,000	\$5,000	\$20,000
Resurface Sawicki Tennis Courts	1-3 years	\$60,000		\$60,000
Pump Track near Laker's Clubhouse (3 phases)	1-6 years	\$45,000	\$150,000	\$195,000
Pickleball Courts	4-6 years	\$200,000	\$50,000	\$250,000
Laker's Clubhouse Parking lot	4-6 years	\$160,000		\$160,000
Tennis Courts	7-10 years	\$200,000	\$50,000	\$250,000
Polson Park Master Plan Improvements	1-10 years	\$3,000,000	\$500,000	\$3,500,000
Civic Arena Master Plan Improvements	4-6 years	\$800,000	\$100,000	\$900,000
Lakeshore Master Plan Improvements	1-10 years	\$600,000	\$100,000	\$700,000
Sports Field Lighting	7-10 years	\$150,000	\$50,000	\$200,000
TRAILS				
Foothills Ravine Trail (~1.2km)	1-3 years	\$25,000	\$5,000	\$30,000
Lower Commonage Trail Network (~4km)	4-6 years	\$93,000		\$93,000
Vernon Creek Trail (~500m)	4-6 years	\$12,000		\$12,000
Lakeshore Trail Phase 1 (~500m)	7-10 years	\$15,000		\$15,000
Allan Brooks Trail (550m)	7-10 years	\$40,000	\$15,000	\$55,000
WASHROOMS				
Lakeview	1-3 years	\$400,000		\$400,000
Laker's Clubhouse	4-6 years	\$200,000		\$200,000
Grahame	4-6 years	\$175,000	\$25,000	\$200,000
MacDonald	7-10 years	\$150,000	\$50,000	\$200,000
Alexis	7-10 years	\$175,000	\$25,000	\$200,000
*Signage, Benches and Picnic Tables	1-10 years	\$500,000		\$500,000
**Totals		\$7,090,000	\$1,145,000	\$8,235,000

* \$50,000 per year proposed to be dedicated to Signage, Benches and Picnic Tables

**An inflation rate of 10% per year should be added to these estimates as time continues. As new parks are developed, adequate operating funds would need to be available to maintain new parks. For every new park of 3.0 hectares (7.4 acres) at a community park maintenance level, the City of Vernon's maintenance program needs to increase by one Full Time Equivalent (FTE).

Table 2 – 10 year Playground Replacement Plan is shown below. It identifies a proposed time frame in which each upgrade is to occur and indicates a budget estimate amount. New playground installations are listed in the table

but budget figures are provided above in Table 1 - Parks and Trails Project Phasing Plan, as they generally form part of larger projects and are proposed additions to the playground supply.

Table 2 – 10 year Playground Replacement Plan

Playground Structure Inventory	Park Category	Project	Short Term 1-3 years	Medium Term 4-6 years	Long Term 7-10 years
Alexis Park	Athletic	Replacement	\$60,000		
Armory Park	Neighbourhood	Additions			\$20,000
Transit Terminus	Urban Parks and Plazas		Capital Project		
Civic Arena	Community	Design and Development		Capital Project	
Canadian Lakeview	Neighbourhood	Design and Development		\$80,000	
DND Army Camp	Athletic				
Girouard Park	Neighbourhood				
Grahame Park	Athletic	Replacement			\$60,000
Heritage Park	Neighbourhood	Replacement	\$90,000		
Heron Glen Tot Lot	Neighbourhood				
Kimura Tot Lot	Neighbourhood			\$20,000	
Kin Beach Park	Community				
Kin Racetrack Park	Athletic				
Kiwanis	Neighbourhood				
Laker's Clubhouse and property	Community				
Lakeshore Drive	Community	Design and Development		Capital Project	
Lakeview Park	Community				
Lot 10, Plan 26325	Neighbourhood				
Lot 18, Plan 26858	Neighbourhood				
Lot 20, Plan 25682	Neighbourhood				
Marshall Field Park	Athletic				
Mission Hill Park	Neighbourhood	Replacement	\$120,000		
Paddlewheel Park	Community				
Pleasant Valley Park	Neighbourhood				
Polson Park	Community	Replace base	\$30,000		
S. Vernon STP	Neighbourhood				
Sawicki Park	Neighbourhood	Additions + Base		\$80,000	
Silver Star Foothills Park	Neighbourhood				
Sterling Estates	Neighbourhood				
*RDNO transfer for 2015 playground replacements			\$180,000		
Totals			\$120,000	\$180,000	\$80,000



Funding Plan (To be finalized based on Council, Committee, Stakeholder and Community Feedback)



A variety of funding sources and mechanisms are being explored to achieve the estimated cost of implementing the draft Parks Master Plan, as proposed, at approximately \$12 million. The proposed funding sources are outlined below with estimated revenue amounts.

The Parks Master Plan implementation is estimated at ~ \$12 Million



Outside Contributions = \$1.1 Million

Community support to implement the Parks Master Plan is strong and *will be explored further*. Many community groups and organizations engaged throughout the consultation process indicated a willingness to form *partnerships* in the implementation of specific projects. This also includes working closely with existing partners, such as the School District, in cost sharing on projects to achieve mutually beneficial objectives. These new and existing partnerships would be developed and promoted.

Anticipated *grant revenue* also falls within this category. Local, Provincial and Federal grants for park and trail improvements and development would be sought to assist in funding the Plan.

Community amenity contributions would be encouraged from local businesses and developments where a park or trail improvement would benefit not only the community, but also the business (and their employees) or an adjacent development.

Sponsorship and advertising are other forms of revenue generation that would be explored. Once seen as taboo in the local government and recreation sectors, sponsorship is increasingly becoming a viable revenue source to assist with delivering parks and recreation services.

Development Cost Charges and Subdivision Parkland Dedication = \$4.9 Million

Directly following the adoption of the Parks Master Plan, a Development Cost Charge (DCC) Bylaw would be prepared to create a City of Vernon parks charge. The intent is to set the DCC rate no higher than the DCC rate charged by RDNO up to this time. RDNO is redrafting its Park DCC charge to 40% of the current rate, with the City's new DCC charge set at approximately 60%. If DCC rates remain relatively constant, and based on projected residential development, the total expected revenue would be approximately \$4.9 million over the next ten years. DCC parks charges, currently only charged on residential development, could also be considered for commercial and industrial development. This could be explored during the creation of the bylaw, with due consideration of the need to keep the local development climate competitive.

Once park and trail projects are identified in a DCC bylaw (as informed by the Parks Master Plan), a developer may choose to build a project, in exchange for DCC credits. A developer may feel that building a project would be more beneficial to potential buyers, the surrounding neighbourhood and the development itself, creating a win win situation. This may assist in projects being realized in a more timely manner over the life of the Plan.

Parkland dedication, or cash in lieu contributions resulting from subdivisions, as established in the Local Government Act, provides for up to 5% of the land being subdivided, or the value of that land, for parkland. The cash in lieu contributions are held in the Parkland Reserve Fund and are specifically allocated for the purchase of

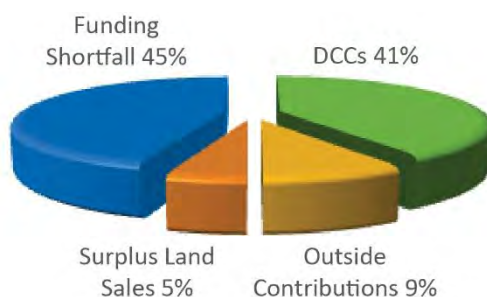
parkland. Land dedications are considered preferable in areas that are identified as deficient in parkland. However, topography and other issues occasionally restrict the ability to provide good quality parkland. In these instances, the cash contribution is required.

Surplus Land Sales = \$570,000

During the parkland inventory exercise, some City owned lands were identified as being potentially surplus. These lands could be sold to create revenue to purchase more attractive sites in park deficient areas of the city.

*Estimated short fall in
funding = \$ 5.4 Million*

Figure 6: Funding Estimates



Funding Shortfall = (\$5.4 Million)

The Parks Transfer Agreements between RDNO and the City of Vernon resulted in a savings to the City of approximately \$200,000 annually for delivering the local parks function. In order to provide for capital improvements to realize the implementation of the draft Plan, it is desirable to allocate some funding on an annual basis.

If the proposed Parks Master Plan were to proceed as proposed, the anticipated short fall in funding would be \$5.4 million. An estimated 1.7% tax increase could cover the anticipated

shortfall. During public consultation, the public indicated support for increased taxation if it would be invested and earmarked specifically to improve existing parks and develop new parks. This should be more fully explored during the public consultation phase associated with the draft Plan.



Community Support

Community programs would desirably be developed to support improvements and additions to the parks system. An adopt a park program would be explored, as well as, the creation of a community memorial program for benches and trees (Commemorative Gifting). Park donations and endowments would also be encouraged and explored.

RDNO Regional Parkland Legacy Fund

In early 2014, the RDNO asked its member jurisdictions to comment on the desirability of implementing a Regional Parkland Legacy Fund for the acquisition of sub-regional parkland. The City was unable to commit at that time, pending the development of this Plan and needing an understanding of the City's own funding needs with regards to parkland acquisition. This proposal would need further discussion in light of the proposed Parks Master Plan and the associated funding implications.

Appendix

Appendix 1 – Existing Parks Inventory

Name (Alias)	Address	Park Category					Size
		Athletic Park	Community Park	Natural Area	Neighbourhood Park	Urban Parks and Plazas	
33 Avenue Creek (Vernon Creek)	3407 33 Ave.			•			0.1393
Airport Lands	Tronson Rd.			•			5.8927
Alexis Park	3951 Alexis Park Dr.	•					1.6335
Armory Park	2901 18 Ave.				•		0.5958
Becker Park	3404 39 Ave.			•			5.8220
Bella Vista - Lot A (Lot A Lot 11 Plan 1689)	3097 Davison Rd.			•			5.7198
BMX Ranger (Ranger Park)	1900 47 Ave.	•					0.7628
BX Creek	1800 53 Ave.			•			1.5332
CEC Young	3909 Argyle Ave.			•			1.7339
Cenotaph Park	3110 30 St.					•	0.2324
Clerke Nature Reserve	3497 Alexis Park Dr.			•			0.3971
Coursier Park	28 Cres.				•		0.4117
DND Army Camp	2950 15 Ave.	•					27.2681
Ellison Provincial Park	9805 Eastside Rd.			•			199.7865
FB Jacques Park	3210 Centennial Dr.			•			0.6675
Foothills Hitchcock (Hitchcock Road Park)	7185 Hitchcock Rd.			•			1.0147
Foothills Ravines (Foothills Park)	6823 Foothills Dr.			•			7.9069
Foothills Ravines – Phoenix (Foothills Park)	1406 Copper Mtn Crt & 1330 Phoenix Dr.			•	•		2.5255
Girouard Park	4115 20 St.				•		0.9155
Grahame Park	5701 Okanagan Ave.	•		•			4.3466
Grey Canal Trail				•			12.8500
Heritage Park	5025 Heritage Dr.				•		1.1599
Heron Glen Tot Lot (Heron Glen)	1800 53 Ave.				•		0.2743
Justice Court Park	3002 27 St.					•	0.3763
Kimura Tot Lot (Pottery Ravine Park)	1604 18 Ave.			•	•		1.2311
Kin Beach Park	7150 Lakeshore Rd.		•				1.9501
Kin Racetrack Park	3501 43 Ave.	•					19.2380
Kiwanis (Kiwanis Tot Lot)	1604 44 St.				•		0.0905
Kokanee Rd NE	9235 Kokanee Rd.			•			0.7539

Name (Alias)	Address	Park Category					Size
		Athletic Park	Community Park	Natural Area	Neighbourhood Park	Urban Parks and Plazas	
Kokanee Rd SW	9312 Kokanee Rd.			•			2.6478
Laker's Clubhouse and property	7000 Cummins Rd.		•	•			2.5968
Lakeview Park (Lakeview Park and Peanut Pool)	3001 18 St.		•				2.0423
Lot 10, Plan 26325 (41 St Tot Lot)	3800 11 St.				•		0.0487
Lot 18, Plan 26858 (19 Ave Tot Lot)	1904 19 Ave.				•		0.1120
Lot 20, Plan 25682 (Hudac Tot Lot)	3009 11 St.				•		0.0864
Lot 4 Plan KAP58651 (Waterfront Trail Park)				•			0.2697
MacDonald Park	2700 43 Ave.	•					2.5862
Marshall Field Park	6601 Okanagan Landing Rd.	•					16.2530
Marshall Wetlands	6601 Okanagan Landing Rd.			•			3.5278
Mission Hill Park	3901 15 Ave.				•		3.2373
Mt Grady Park	996 Mt Ida Dr.			•			0.3155
Museum and Spirit Square (Spirit Square)	3009 32 Ave.					•	0.6401
North Vernon Park	5601 20t St.			•			2.2462
Paddlewheel Park	7813 Okanagan Landing Rd.		•				3.3103
Park Promontory (Predator Ridge Parkland Agreement)	564 Longspoon Crt.				•		5.6536
Pioneer Park	3501 38 St.				•		0.2138
Pleasant Valley Rd	Pleasant Valley Rd.			•			0.0701
Polson Park (Rotary Skateboard Park)	2600 & 2704 HWY 6	•					1.5357
Polson Park	2600 & 2704 HWY 6		•				16.0495
Rocky Ridge Park and Grey Canal Trail (Grey Canal)	Turtle Mountail Blvd.			•			5.9573
Rotary Park (Kelly O'Bryans)	3100 43 Ave.					•	0.1217
S. Vernon STP	1910 43 St.				•		0.1343
Sawicki Park	996 Middleton Way				•		2.4518
Silver Star Foothills Park	115 Whistler Pl.				•		2.2738
Sterling Estates	17 St & 40 Ave.				•		0.1087
Tavistock Property (Tavistock Adventure Bay)	9010 Tronson Rd.			•			5.7194
Truman Dagnus Lockheed Provincial Park	Harbour Heights Rd.			•			7.0021
Unnamed Park	851 Mt Ida Dr.			•			22.0672
Vernon Creek Fulton	Fulton Rd.			•			1.2999

Appendix 2 – Future Parks Inventory

Name (Alias)	Address	Park Category					Size
		Athletic Park	Community Park	Natural Area	Neighbourhood Park	Urban Parks and Plazas	
39 Street	2807, 2901, 2903 - 39 St.				•		0.1372
Anderson Ranch Property	5975 Lefoy Rd.			•			2.7759
Basin Pond (Predator Ridge Parkland Agreement)	Bridle Lake Dr.			•			3.3184
Birdie Lake Ravine Park (Predator Ridge Parkland Agreement)				•			2.9384
Civic Arena	3400 30 St, 308 & 306 39 Ave, 3805 31 St.		•				1.2285
CLD					•		1.2051
Lakeshore Drive	2548, 2554, 2574, 2580, 2588, 2592, 2596, 2598, 2606, 2694 Lakeshore Dr.		•				1.1798
Park Crest (Predator Ridge Parkland Agreement)				•			4.4000
Park Rise (Predator Ridge Parkland Agreement)				•			2.5816
Pleasant Valley Park	4500 Pleasant Valley				•		0.4038
The Rise				•			1.9543
Topper's Cleaners Site	3010 31 Ave.					•	0.0464
Village Meadows (Predator Ridge Parkland Agreement)				•			3.0874
Vista View (Predator Ridge Falcon Way)	Falcon Point Way			•			0.3952



Parks Inventory

Legend

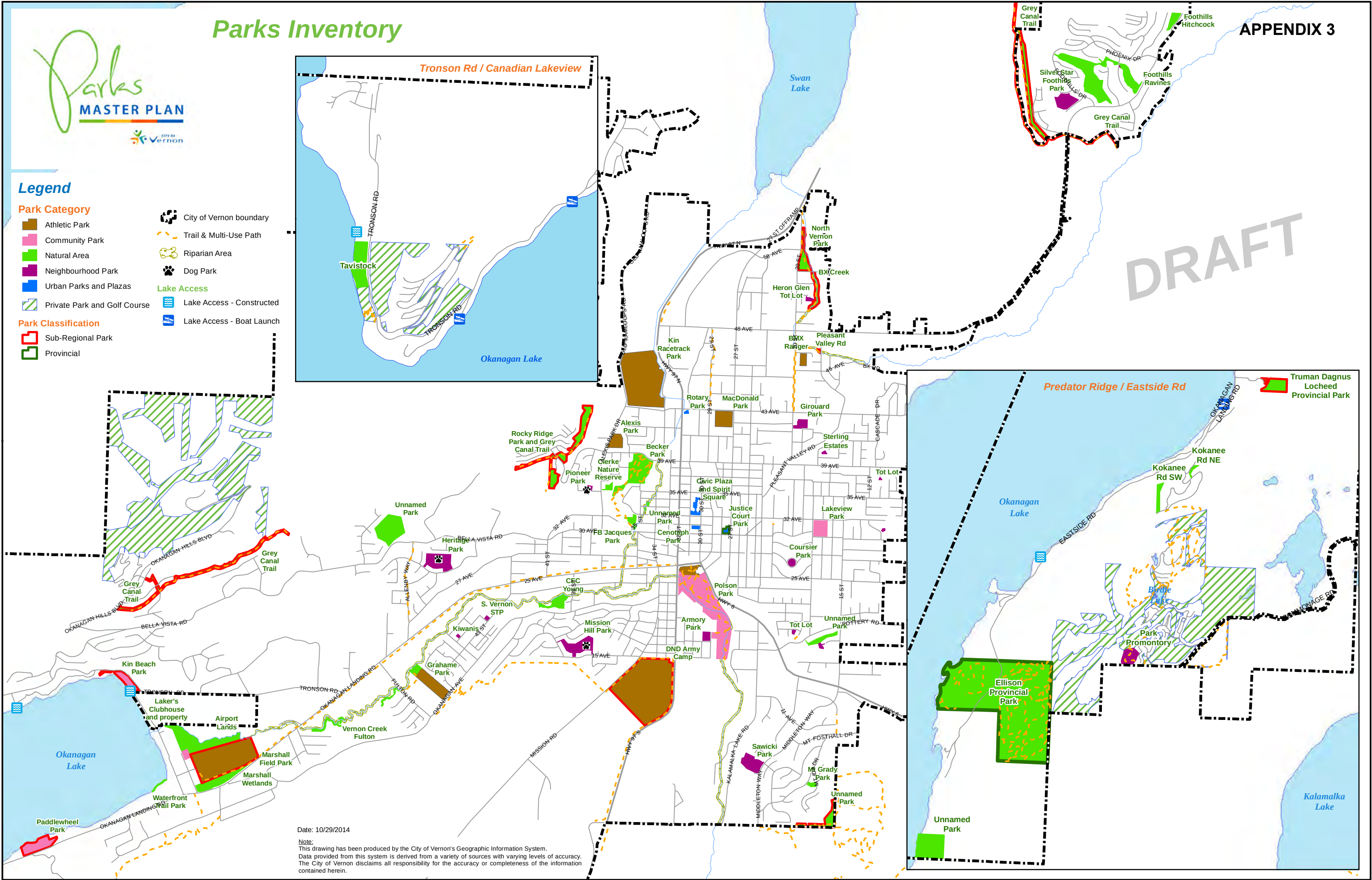
Park Category

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

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

Park Classification

- Sub-Regional Park
- Provincial



Date: 10/29/2014

Note:
This drawing has been produced 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.

5 & 10 Minute Walking Areas from Parks & School Grounds

Legend

Park Category

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

Future Parks - Category

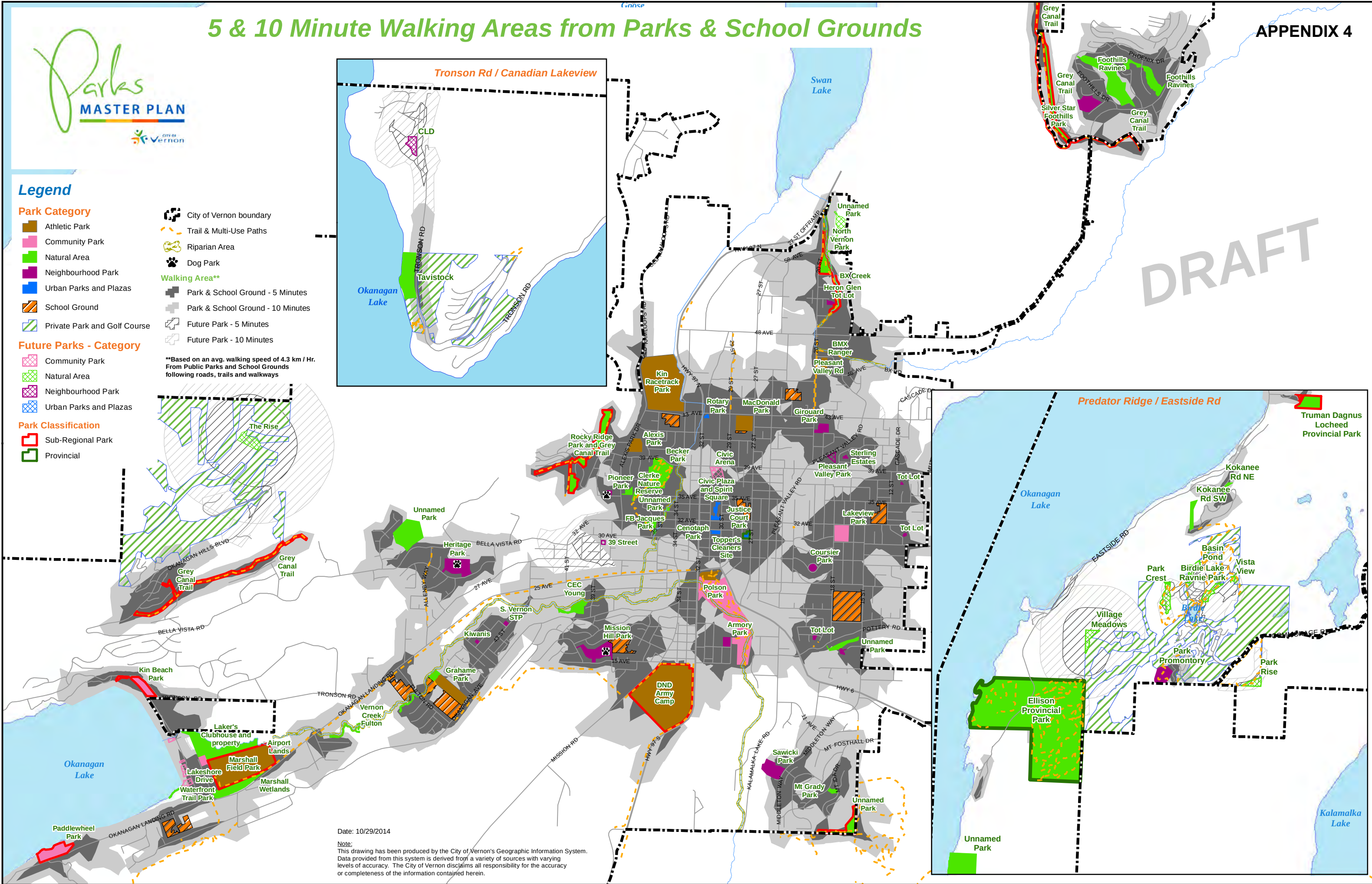
- Community Park
- Natural Area
- Neighbourhood Park
- Urban Parks and Plazas

Park Classification

- Sub-Regional Park
- Provincial

- City of Vernon boundary
- Trail & Multi-Use Paths
- Riparian Area
- Dog Park
- Walking Area**
- Park & School Ground - 5 Minutes
- Park & School Ground - 10 Minutes
- Future Park - 5 Minutes
- Future Park - 10 Minutes

**Based on an avg. walking speed of 4.3 km / Hr.
From Public Parks and School Grounds
following roads, trails and walkways



Date: 10/29/2014

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or completeness of the information contained herein.

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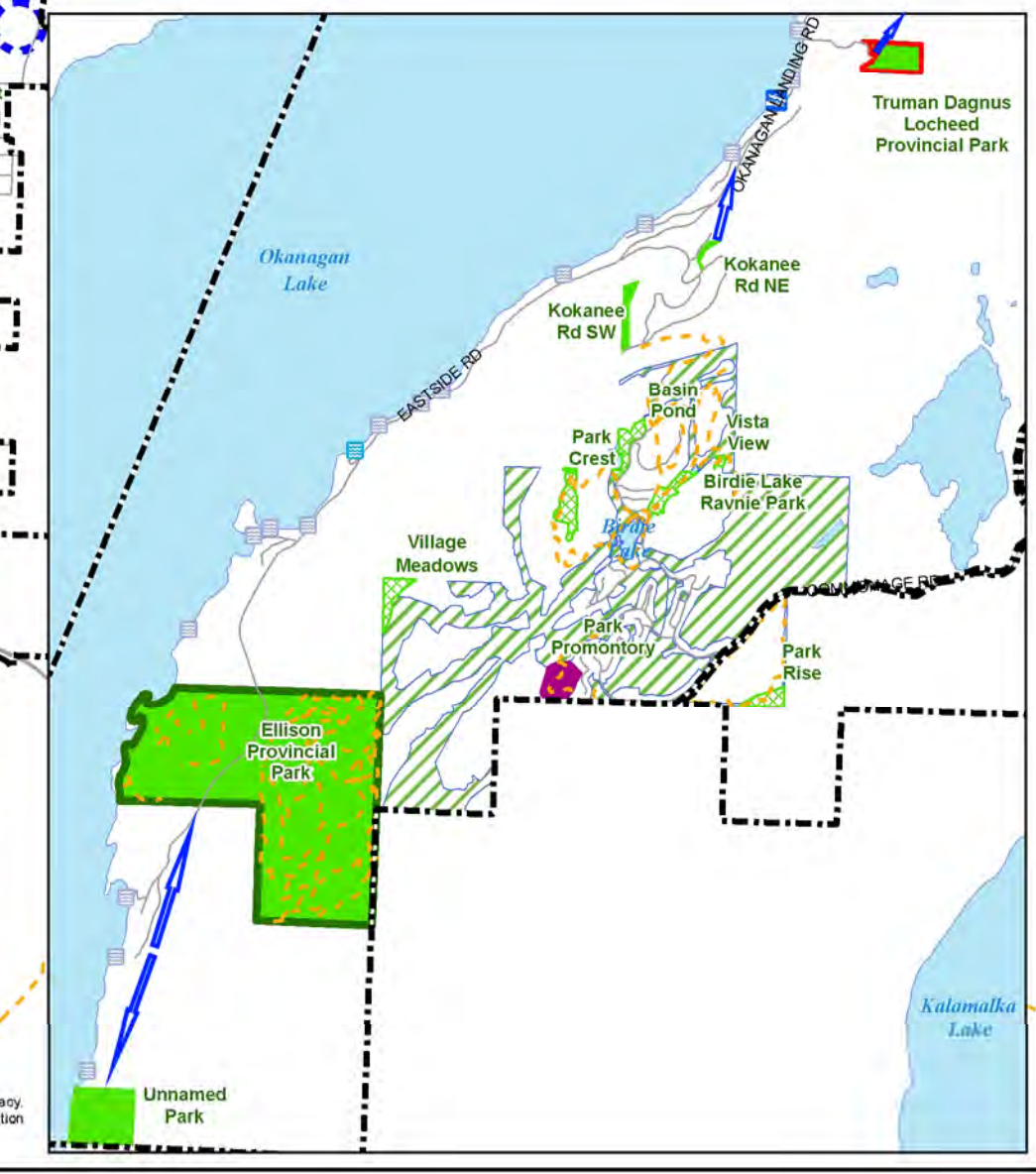
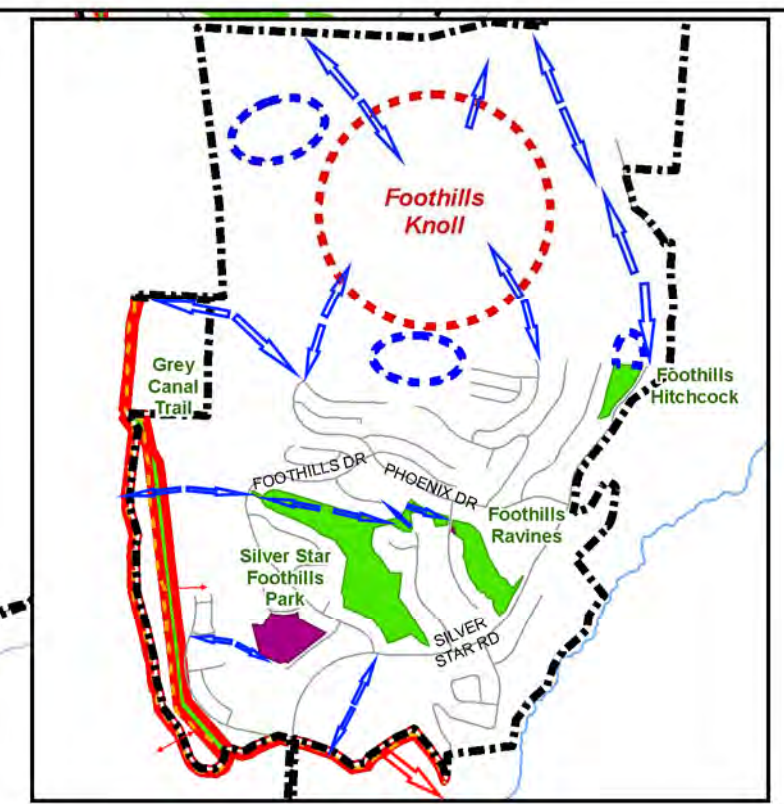
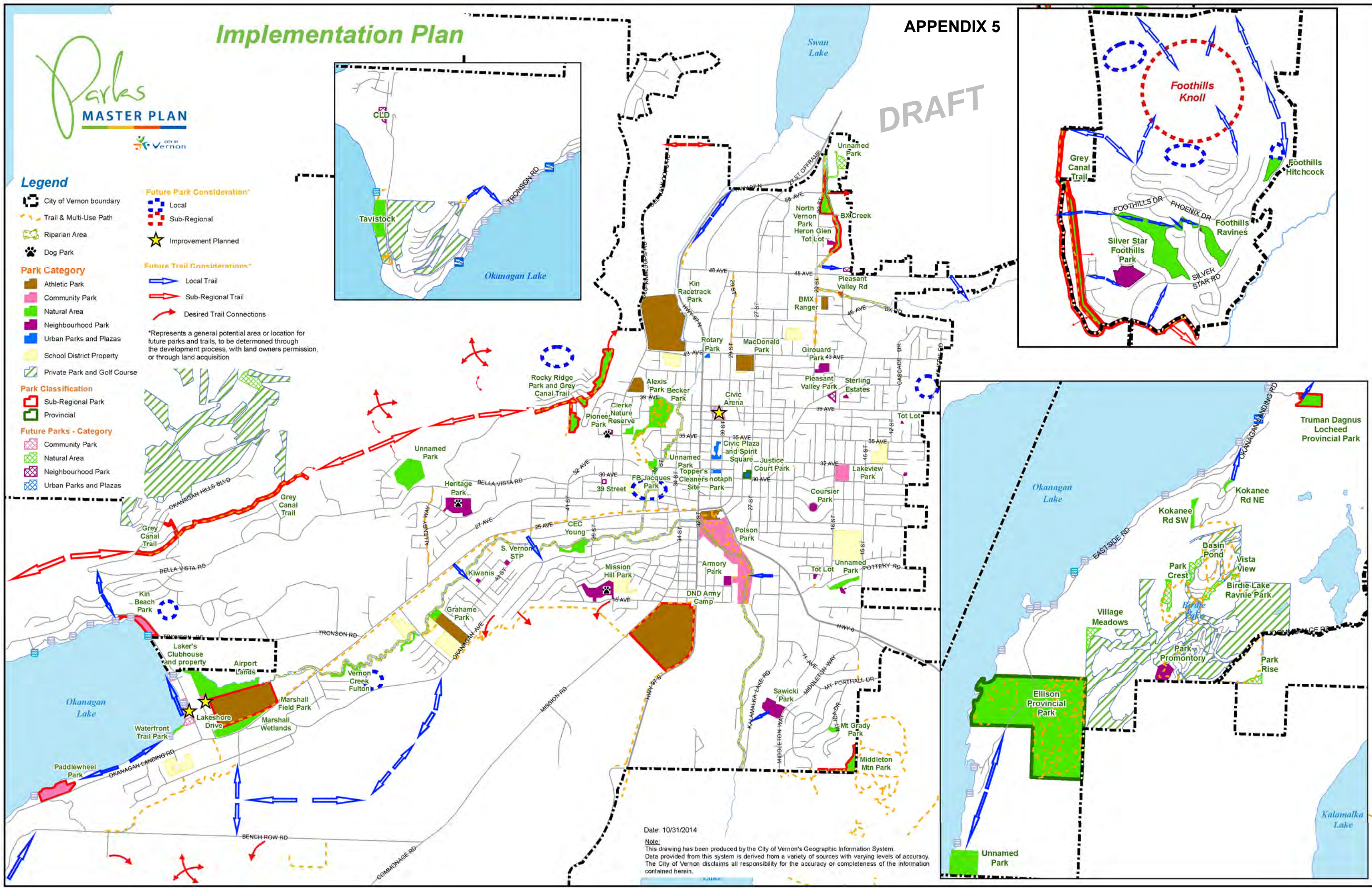
Legend

- City of Vernon boundary
- Trail & Multi-Use Path
- Riparian Area
- Dog Park
- Park Category**
 - Athletic Park
 - Community Park
 - Natural Area
 - Neighbourhood Park
 - Urban Parks and Plazas
 - School District Property
 - Private Park and Golf Course
- Park Classification**
 - Sub-Regional Park
 - Provincial
- Future Parks - Category**
 - Community Park
 - Natural Area
 - Neighbourhood Park
 - Urban Parks and Plazas

- Future Park Consideration***
 - Local
 - Sub-Regional
 - Improvement Planned

- Future Trail Considerations***
 - Local Trail
 - Sub-Regional Trail
 - 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



Date: 10/31/2014

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