



# PARK IMPROVEMENT PLAN

January 2015



Prepared by Dillon Consulting Limited and Bob Lilly Landscape Architect

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# APPENDIX

## Stakeholder Engagement Presentation



## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Dillon Consulting Limited (Dillon) and Bob Lilly, Landscape Architect were engaged in August 2015 to assist the Oliver Parks and Recreation Society (OPRS) develop a Park Improvement Plan. In September 2015 the team conducted a background and best practice review and site visits. On Friday, September 28th the team held a stakeholder engagement day to discuss current priorities and opportunities for improvement with staff. The team then completed an opportunity and priority analysis, which was discussed with the OPRS Board, and developed concepts for two parks (Lions Park and Rotary Park and Beach) as well as an implementation plan.

*This document is the final Park Improvement Plan, which summarizes work conducted, the vision for the future of these parks, and the steps that need to be taken over the next decade to realize that vision.*

### 1.1 Oliver's Park System

The community of Oliver is located at the south end of the Okanagan Valley in the Southern Interior of British Columbia, Canada, with a population of over 4,000 people. Established in 1918, it is located between Osoyoos and Okanagan Falls, and is recognized as the Wine Capital of Canada by Tourism BC. The community of Oliver is made up of land governed by three different bodies: the Town of Oliver, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen and the Osoyoos Indian Band.

The Oliver Parks and Recreation Society (OPRS) was formed in 2005 as a joint service function of the Town of Oliver and the Regional District of the Okanagan-Similkameen.

*Oliver Parks and Recreation Society believes that recreation encompasses a broad spectrum of activities vital to the development of our community's character, spirit and culture.*

OPRS is responsible for the operations and related recreation services of/for the Oliver Arena, Community Centre, Pool and four community parks.

### 1.2 OPRS Goals

The OPRS has recently completed a 5-year strategic plan, which includes the following five goals:

1. **Active Living:** Foster active living through physical recreation.
2. **Access and Inclusion:** Increase inclusion and access to recreation for populations that face constraints to participation.
3. **Connecting people with nature:** Help people connect to nature through recreation.
4. **Supportive Environments:** Ensure the provision of supportive and social environments that encourage participation in recreation and build a strong, caring community.
5. **Recreation capacity:** Ensure the continued growth and sustainability of the recreation industry and the Oliver Parks and Recreation Society.



To help achieve these goals and their associated priorities, this comprehensive Park Improvement Plan is being developed to guide future budgeting, capital planning, facility improvements, environmental initiatives and operational efficiencies.

### 1.3 Previous Parks Plans

During the background review, Oliver's previous Parks Plans were used to form the foundation of the current situation and take stock of former visions for the Oliver Parks system.

#### 1.3.1 Parks & Recreation Master Plan (1991)

The Oliver Parks and Recreation Master Plan was created to take stock of the current condition of the parks and recreation facilities in Oliver, make recommendations to improve the parks and recreation system, and develop guidelines by which parks and recreation decisions could be made. The Master Plan took inventory of all parks and recreation facilities to determine each facility's ownership, maintenance needs, and inadequacies. To gather information regarding these issues, the Master Plan team consulted many stakeholders including parks staff, the school district, and the general public.

The Master Plan determined the philosophy, goals and objectives to be used to plan the delivery of leisure services. Additionally, guidelines for the provision of parks and recreation services were outlined in the Master Plan. A matrix was created to evaluate the cost and timeframe of a summary of recommendations. Building upon the summary, recommendations were then rated from immediately important with minimal cost to issues that were on a long term timeframe and more costly to carry out.

Key components of the 1991 Master Plan included:

- **Roles & Responsibilities** – Defining the roles and responsibilities of the parks and recreation governing bodies including the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Parks and Recreation Department;
- **Partnerships** – Increase partnerships between the Parks and Recreation Department outside organizations such as private/corporate partners and School District #14;
- **Park Acquisition** – Initiate the acquisition of park properties and funding through sources such as development cost charges and a land reserve fund; and
- **Improvements** – Initiate improvements at each of the neighbourhood and municipal parks, and recreation facilities.



### 1.3.2 Parks & Recreation Master Plan Review (2001)

The 2001 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Review analyzed the progress of the original Master Plan goals and objectives. The purpose of the Review was to update the Master Plan to reflect current preferences and values. The review also took into consideration references to parks and open spaces in two other City documents, the 1993 Oliver Official Community Plan, and the 1996 Electoral Area “C” Official Community Plan.

The Review found that the majority of the recommendations laid out by the Master Plan had been carried out. In addition, the Review highlighted recommendations that were made in the Master Plan that were still a work in progress, or no longer applicable. One of the major focuses of the Review was the ongoing need for the development and maintenance of Oliver’s parks amenities. Issues that were identified in the Master Plan that were still relevant in the Review included:

- The need for safer, more age appropriate playground equipment;
- Further improvement and development of the facilities at Lions Park;
- The creation of a water park or spray park at Kinsmen Park; and
- To initiate the development of a comprehensive trail system plan to improve the safety and maintenance of Oliver’s trails.

The Review concluded that the ongoing maintenance and development of Oliver’s recreation facilities is necessary, however the majority of residents were satisfied with the current recreational facilities and programming. Similarly, the Review found that the majority of residents were satisfied with the administration of the parks and recreation facilities in Oliver. Several additional funding sources were identified in the Review, including additional resident taxation and private partnerships.




## 2.0 CURRENT ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES

OPRS parks have a history of success, and there are many strong qualities among the parks and the system. They are very popular and used by both residents and visitors, and have had numerous improvements over the years. However, the purpose of this document is to summarize the issues and opportunities that have been identified and discussed, and to present some potential solutions. The next step will be to vet and prioritize these solutions, for inclusion in the action and implementation plan. The Park Improvement Plan will provide recommendations for the next decade and help the OPRS focus its investments.

### 2.1 All Parks

The following section provides a look at issues and opportunities that are common among all four parks, followed by a more detailed discussion for each park.

Issue	Potential Solution
<p><b>1. Bathroom Upgrades</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Murals</b> - Paint murals on the bathroom walls (Lions, Rotary, Kinsmen, etc.).</li> <li>• <b>Renovations</b> - Renovate the bathrooms to provide wheelchair accessibility throughout.</li> <li>• <b>Green Roofs</b> - Explore the construction of green roofs on bathroom buildings.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Water Use Reduction</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reduce Irrigation</b> - Reduce irrigation in many parks (Rotary on east side and remove irrigation closest to the water – gets clogged with sand).</li> <li>• <b>Irrigation Area Types</b> - Have two or three designated irrigation area types to manage the time and volume of water that is used (e.g. daily areas, weekly areas, and bi-monthly areas). For example, the playing fields would get daily irrigation, the passive areas of the parks would get less frequent watering, and the naturalized fringe areas would get even less water.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Mowing / Maintenance Reduction</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reduce Mowed Areas</b> (where possible)- Develop naturalized areas with native vegetation and fringe areas that are only mowed a few times per year.</li> <li>• <b>Mulch Tree Rings</b> - Install mulch tree rings around all of the trees to eliminate/reduce the need for weed whacking against the trunks.</li> <li>• <b>Trunk Guards</b> - Install trunk guards on smaller trees to reduce injury from weed whackers.</li> <li>• <b>Overhaul Problem Areas</b> - Overhaul some of the identified maintenance problem areas (e.g. the slope along the south end of Lion’s Park).</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Off-Leash Dog Areas</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bylaw Enforcement</b> - Improve bylaw enforcement.</li> <li>• <b>New Off-Leash Areas</b> - Move off-leash area on Ball diamonds 4 and 5 to the area north of the tennis courts (Community Park) and new off-leash area in the north of Lions Park. Vision: 1 small at Community Park and 1 large at Lions Park.</li> </ul>



Issue	Potential Solution
<b>5. Playground and Program Upgrades</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Playground Surfacing</b> - Change from Pea gravel to Fibar (Lions Park, Rotary, Kinsmen, etc.). Note, many municipalities use a pea gravel drainage layer beneath the Fibar separated with filter fabric.</li><li>• <b>Signage</b> - Improved and consistent park signage (what it's for, hours of operation, etc.) and way-finding throughout town.</li><li>• <b>Parks Donation Program</b> - Develop Parks donation program (benches, tables, trees, etc.)</li></ul>
<b>6. Smoking in parks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Bylaw enforcement.</b></li><li>• <b>Cigarette Urns</b> - Install cigarette butt urns throughout problem areas.</li></ul>





- **Bylaw Revisions** - Consider revising the by-law to prohibit smoking only near playgrounds and food vendors, but allow smoking elsewhere. That would rationalize the installation of urns elsewhere and might provide a better chance to manage the problematic behaviors (i.e. cigarette butt littering and second hand smoke).



## 2.2 Priority Park #1 – Lions Park

Lion’s Park is located at 6607 Main Street and includes a skateboard park, outdoor fitness equipment, picnic area, pavilion, washrooms, and access to hike and bike paths. A number of issues had been identified, and the section below identifies a variety of potential solutions for each which have been discussed thus far.



Issue	Potential Solution
<b>1. Dog Control</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>New Off-Leash Area</b> - Establish Off-Leash Dog area in North portion of the park.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Loitering (pickers, partiers, ‘visitors’)</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Invest in Park</b> - Improved design and maintenance to attract more people into the park – show community investment in it. Bring the locals back into the park.</li> <li>● <b>Improve Sightlines</b> - Limb up the trees to provide better sightlines into the park.</li> <li>● <b>Additional Food Vendors</b> - Solicit more food vendors to increase the use of the park and “eyes on the street”.</li> <li>● <b>Collaborate on “Park Charter”</b> - Work with park visitors / regulars to establish cooperative sets of acceptable behavior / activities so locals and tourists are not scared away.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Maintenance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Improve slope along roadway at south</b> – to reduce / eliminate the “hours spent weed whacking the slope along the roadway in the south”, remove the rocks and replant with low-maintenance solution (e.g. bunch grass and desert-appropriate plants). Bury the small rocks.</li> <li>● <b>Improve Drainage in North</b> - Explore the possibility of installing drain lines out to the water course (mid-term) and potentially raise up the grades in the area (long-term).</li> </ul>
<b>4. Skate Park / Basketball / BMX Park Conflicts / Use</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Expansion of the skate park.</li> <li>● Eliminate the BMX Park.</li> <li>● Rectify the conflict between the basketball court and the skate park users.</li> </ul>





Issue

Potential Solution

- Incorporate parkour features adjacent to the skate park.



5. Park Upgrades

- New nature-based play in the middle of the exercise loop on the south end.



## 2.3 Priority Park #2 – Community Park



Community Park is located at 665 McKinney Road. Current features include tennis courts, 5 ball diamonds, outdoor stage, lawn bowling facility, 750 metre pathway loop, two washroom buildings, outdoor concession, and access to hike and bike paths. A number of issues had been identified, and the section below identifies a variety of potential solutions for each which have been discussed thus far.

Issue	Potential Solution
<p><b>1. Maintenance / upgrades to reduce maintenance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Ball Diamond Upgrades</b> - Upgrade shale on ball diamonds. Upgrade the dugouts by extending them and adding roofs. Install new / improved bleachers.</li> <li>● <b>Trees</b> - Continually plant trees. Incorporate regular arborist care for existing trees (e.g. pruning, pest control, fertilization as required). Protection of the tree trunks from mower/weed whacker damage.</li> <li>● <b>Rocky area between ball diamond fence and road</b> - Overhaul this area with a low maintenance solution (e.g. native vegetation or gravel).</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Lack of Shade</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Plant more trees.</b> Strategically leave open areas for festival tents.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Park Upgrades</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Power</b> – install additional power outlets for special events.</li> <li>● <b>Seating</b> - Develop seating nooks all around the park with clusters of rocks &amp; benches.</li> <li>● <b>Entranceway</b> - Enhance the main entrance “Grand Entrance”. Signage and new planting.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Dog Off-Leash is currently inside a baseball diamond</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Move Off-leash dog area</b> - Develop a dog off-leash area north of the tennis courts.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Not enough hard court area.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Enlarge the hard court to include ‘Pickleball’.</li> </ul>



## 2.4 Priority Park #3 – Rotary Beach



Rotary Park & Beach is located at 6759 Lakeside Drive and includes a beach, picnic area, playground equipment, and washrooms. A number of issues had been identified, and the section below identifies a variety of potential solutions for each which have been discussed thus far.




Issue	Potential Solution
1. Geese	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Create Natural Barrier</b> - Create barrier between water's edge and grass – riparian area, cattails, etc. Motion sprinklers? Dummy-birds? Continue egg addling. Work with neighbouring property owners to develop a concerted effort.</li> </ul>
2. Slope on east side is difficult to mow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Naturalize Slope</b> - Allow portions of the slope to naturalize to minimize mowing steep areas.</li> </ul>
3. Irrigation problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Adjust Irrigation Timing</b> - Adjust the timing so water doesn't pond near slope toe. Adjust the heads to remove those closest to the sand that get jammed.</li> </ul>
4. Unused west side	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce paddling center with dock. Lease to others at first? Storage area for boats. Reduce mowing on the west side to maybe once or twice per year to allow it to naturalize. Create meadow look around boating area (it will get worn down anyway by boat loading, etc.).</li> </ul>
5. Not enough picnic tables (only 5-6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Introduce more benches and tables.</b> Move away from concrete tables, but create larger cement pads for tables (current ones are too small).</li> <li>• Install composite on the cement terrace so it's friendlier for sitting.</li> </ul>
6. Park Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Increase Accessibility</b> - Open up the main pedestrian entrance to provide a more welcoming entrance to the park and include wheelchair accessible ramp(s). Develop a less formal walkway down to the dock/water as part of the paddling centre. Create a couple of accessible picnic tables. Washrooms will need fixing to make them accessible (currently steps).</li> </ul>
7. Swimming area poorly defined and lacking interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Invest in swimming area</b> - Waterslide. Buoys to define the swim area.</li> <li>• <b>Water Quality</b> - Publicize the current water testing on site and in paper. Public perception that the water is dirty, but it gets tested every week.</li> </ul>
8. Park Upgrades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bathroom roof</b> - Plant green roof on bathroom building (currently sheet metal view).</li> <li>• <b>Fence on eastern side</b> (Lakeside resort barbed wire fence) - Install a neighbor-friendly fence or planting to discourage access to the barbed wire.</li> </ul>



## 2.5 Priority Park #4 – Kinsmen Splash Park

Kinsmen Splash Park is located at 255 Park Drive and includes playground equipment, splash pad, picnic area, and washrooms. A number of issues had been identified, and the section below identifies a variety of potential solutions for each which have been discussed thus far.



Issue	Potential Solution
<p><b>1. Maintenance / Upgrades</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fencing</b> - Replace fencing on north side.</li> <li>• <b>Safety</b> - Trees (cottonwoods) are a potential safety issue – consider removing or replacing.</li> <li>• <b>Parking</b> - Pave parking lot.</li> <li>• <b>Washroom</b> - Upgrade washrooms with power (currently none).</li> <li>• <b>Improve entrance</b> - Welcome sign / archway. Flowers in entrance way. Pave between entrance and bathrooms.</li> <li>• <b>Signage</b> – Consolidate existing signage.</li> </ul>

## 3.0 PRIORITY ANALYSIS

Once reviewed with Staff, the potential solutions listed in Section 2 were systematically evaluated based on three factors: urgency, impact and cost. This evaluation matrix enabled prioritization of all the actions to form the foundation of the action and implementation plan as short, medium or long-term actions.

<b>Urgency</b>	Low	Medium	High
<b>Impact / benefit</b>	Low	Medium	High
<b>Relative Cost</b>	Low	Medium	High

The Priority Analysis was an intermediate step to determine priority actions and was used to develop the future park concepts (Section 4) and the Action and Implementation plan (Section 5).

## 4.0 FUTURE PARK CONCEPTS

Detailed future concepts were developed for the top two priority parks: Lions Park and Rotary Beach Park. Key highlights for the Park Concepts (shown on the following 2 pages) include:

### 4.1 Lions Park

Lions Park is a long, linear park that offers enhancement opportunities for all age groups and abilities. The Conceptual Park Improvement Plan includes a large Off-Leash Dog Area (OLA), a nature play area, a new washroom, and several other initiatives.



The OLA is proposed on the North end of the park. It includes both a large dog area and a small dog area that are fenced and separate from each other. Both areas include a double-gate entry, perimeter fencing, waste receptacles, signage, benches and trees. The spaces also include enhancements to the dog spaces that incorporate dog agility features, rocks, logs, and a water source for the dogs.

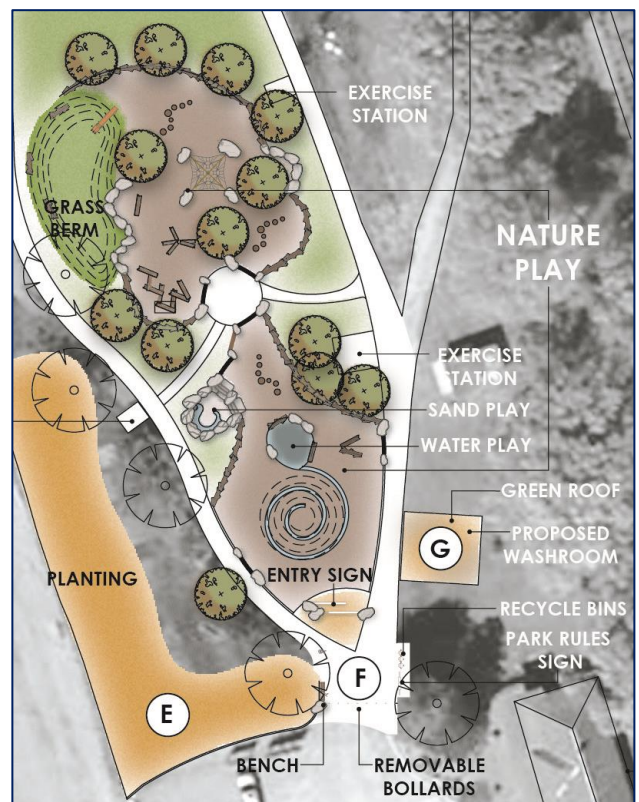
For aesthetic reasons, the OLA fence along the parking lot is proposed to be split rail or some other attractive wood fence with an unobtrusive dog-friendly wire mesh. It is assumed that all of the other OLA fencing would be chain link. All fencing near the 'Hike and Bike Trail' is proposed to be at the bottom of the slope and not directly adjacent to the existing trail to reduce the visual impact.



A Nature Play Area is proposed in the southern part of the park near the newly installed exercise stations. It includes berms with slides, log climbers, log steppers, boulders with climbing nets, sand and water play, a water channel, boulder seating areas and other natural play elements. The concept is intended to incorporate play elements for children of all ages – from 2 years old to 92 years old. A central seating area will serve as a gathering node and “home base” for children, their parents, grandparents, strollers, wagons etc. A new washroom and entry sign, shade trees, seating of various types and locations, low-maintenance surfacing, and fun, exciting play elements should breathe new life and vibrancy into this part of the park.

In addition, the Conceptual Park Improvement Plan includes a renovated skatepark, a basketball court and a seating area.

Following are some other elements of the plan corresponding to the letters on the plan 'key'/legend:



- A. **Limb up existing trees to improve sight-lines** – There are several areas of the park that would benefit from having improved sight lines. One area is along the parking lot. The trees in this area are quite densely branched with low branches that obscure views into the park – especially from the road. Pruning these trees and limbing them up slightly will allow easier surveillance into the park. A second area that would benefit from tree pruning is the area in the far northern portion of the park adjacent to the slough. Selective pruning and limbing up trees in this area will help to open up the space and aid in CEPTED (*i.e.* Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design).



- B. **Upgrade the landscape at the park entry** – Provide enhanced planting and beautification in this highly visible entrance to the park.



- C. **Replace the “Lions Park” Sign** – The existing sign is showing signs of wear and tear including rotted wood near the base. Incorporate the new sign with the enhanced park entry landscape treatment.

- D. **Renovate and enhance the washroom** – Address the water and sanitation requirements of the park visitors. Provide wheelchair accessibility. Develop vandal-proof, low maintenance solutions to enhance the aesthetics of the washroom and ensure the facility functions well during high traffic/peak season use. Undertake internal and external graffiti resistant painting of the building. Update and finish the storage area of the building. Replace external doors and locks.



- E. **Overhaul the planting on the slope to enhance aesthetics, reduce maintenance, and provide adequate sight-lines** – Maintenance staff mentioned that it was very difficult and time consuming to maintain the slope with the large rocks and ill-fitted plants that exist on the slope. Provide a new landscape treatment for the slope that will ease maintenance requirements while enhancing the environmental and aesthetic quality of this area without impeding sight lines.



- F. **Enhance park entrance** – The existing park entrance from the south is uninviting and lacking a sense of place. Potential enhancements include removing the swing gate and replacing it with removable bollards, providing a park sign with associated landscape, new benches and trees, having a unified pavement surface, etc.

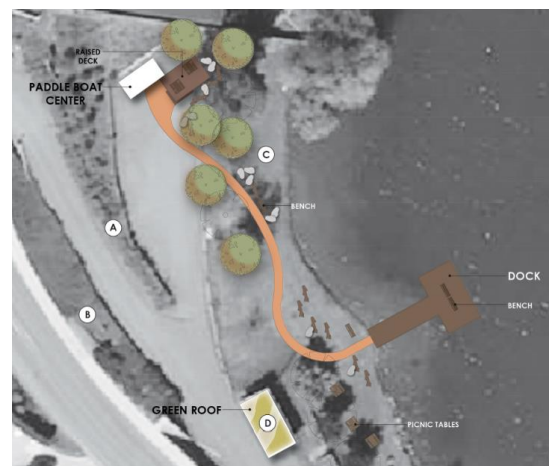


- G. **Proposed new washroom** – Provide a new, fully accessible washroom facility in the southern portion of the park.

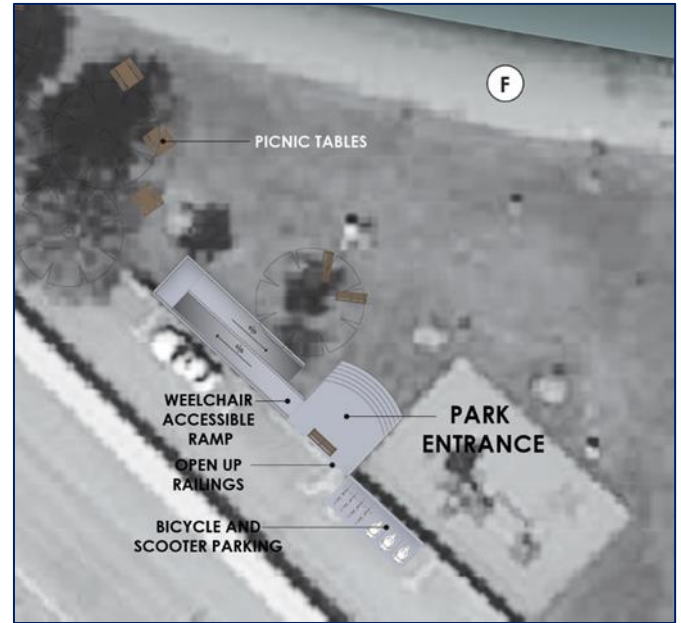
## 4.2 Rotary Beach Park

Rotary Beach Park is a hidden gem within the Oliver Parks system. It is a narrow park situated between Tuc-El-Nuit Lake and Lakeside Drive. The Conceptual Park Improvement Plan includes proposed improvements to the park entry, the swimming area, and northern area of the park.

A Paddle Boat Centre is proposed in the northern edge of the park. This would offer opportunities to rent various non-motorized boats and accessories such as canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards. There is also a proposed platform, pathway and dock associated with the Paddle Boat Centre. The dock is proposed in the same location as the previous dock that used to be in this area.



Another prominent feature of the Conceptual Park Improvement Plan is the improved park entrance. This is located in the southern portion of the park adjacent to the parking lot. The concept is to provide an improved park experience by opening up the railings and installing a proper park entry that includes: a small plaza, steps, a wheelchair accessible ramp, benches and bicycle/scooter parking. The addition of picnic tables and benches should enhance the park significantly.



Following are some of the additional elements of the plan:

- A. **Promote the native vegetation** – There is an area of native planting that was installed several years ago. The intent is to retain this and enhance it with additional native planting.
- B. **Upgrade the landscape on the slope** – Upgrade and beautify the planting on the slope.
- C. **Naturalized water's edge** – Allow the edge of the water in the northern portion of the park to naturalize with long grasses, cat tails etc. This will serve the dual purpose of deterring geese as well as reducing maintenance hours to mow this area.
- D. **Washroom Upgrades** – Upgrade the washroom to provide wheelchair accessibility. Consider installing a green roof.
- E. **Stair / sitting enhancement** – Clean up and beautify the existing seating areas.
- F. **Beach shoreline improvements** – Consider expanding the sand area into the grass. Provide a safe, non-tripping, maintenance-friendly solution to the grass/sand interface zone.
- G. **Child friendly fencing** – The neighbouring fence has barbed wire near the children's play area. Install a child friendly fence to keep the kids away from the barbed wire.
- H. **Naturalized slope** – The slope in this area is steep and difficult to mow. Allow it to naturalize to reduce the maintenance requirements.







- KEY:**
- (A) LIMB UP EXISTING TREES TO IMPROVE SIGHT-LINES
  - (B) UPGRADE THE LANDSCAPE AT THE PARK ENTRY
  - (C) REPLACE THE "LION'S PARK" SIGN
  - (D) RENOVATE AND ENHANCE THE WASHROOM
  - (E) OVERHAUL THE PLANTING ON THE SLOPE TO IMPROVE AESTHETICS, REDUCE MAINTENANCE, AND PROVIDE ADEQUATE SITE LINES
  - (F) ENHANCE PARK ENTRANCE
  - (G) PROPOSED NEW WASHROOM

- KEY:**
- EXISTING TREE TO REMAIN
  - PROPOSED TREE

**PLAN NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION**

# Lions Park

## Conceptual Park Improvement Plan

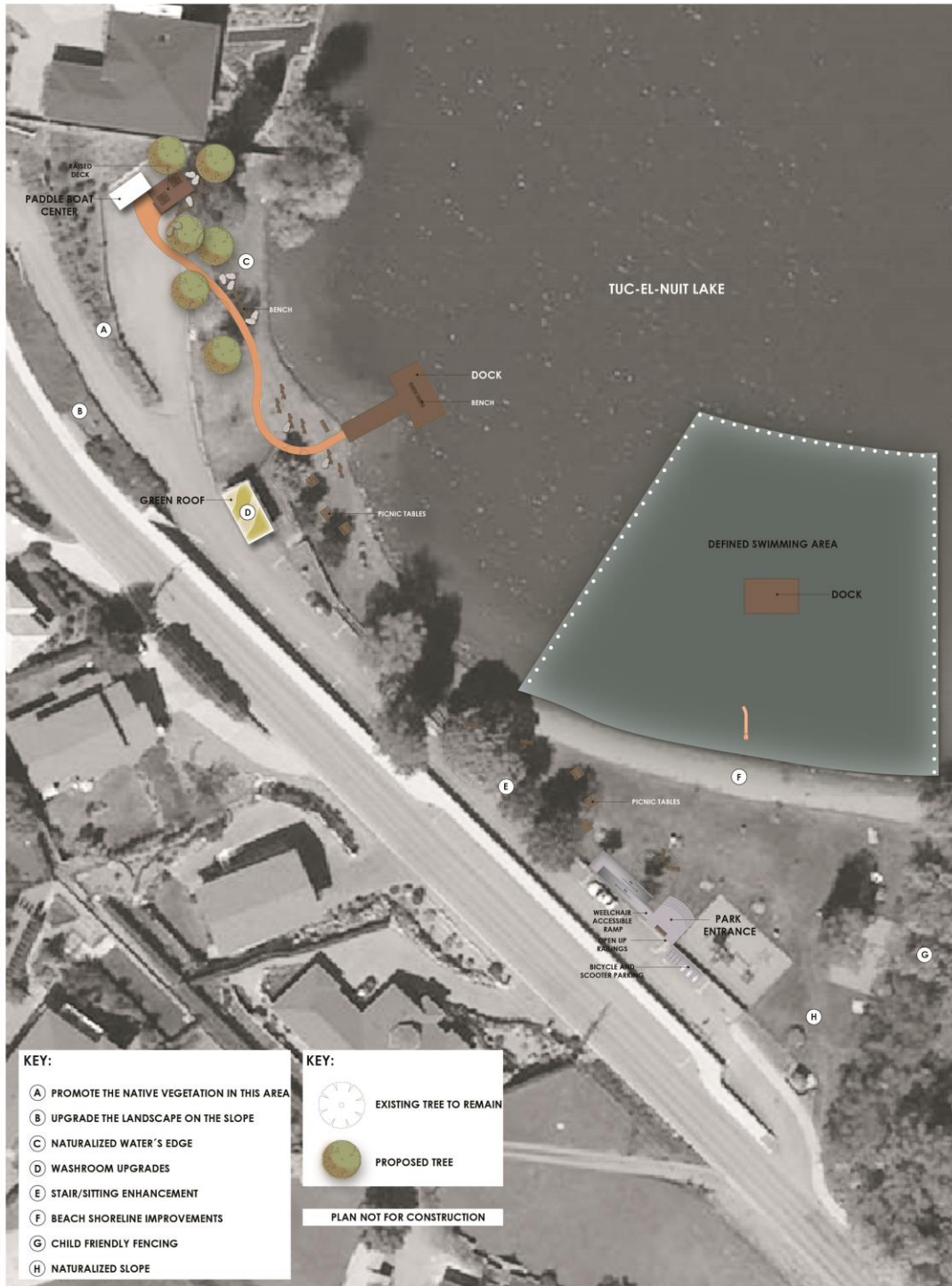
Oliver, B.C.  
December 2015



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**BOB LILLY LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT**



## Rotary Beach Park

### Conceptual Park Improvement Plan

Oliver, B.C.  
 December 2015



BOB LILLY LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT



## 5.0 ACTION & IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

This Park Improvement Plan will be implemented over the next ten years. The success of any Plan depends on the efforts that are directed towards integrating its recommendations into decision-making.

### 5.1 Action Plan

This Action Plan provides direction for taking the recommendations contained in the Park Improvement Plan forward. The table on this and following pages lists each of the priority actions included in the Park Improvement Plan, some of which are abbreviated to fit the table, and identifies a timeline, responsibilities, and approximate cost for each.

- **Relative Cost:** Low (L), Medium (M) or High (H). Sources of funds for each recommendation have not been determined at this time.
- **Priority Score:** From the Evaluation Matrix, the score between 0 and 12.
- **Timeline:** Short (S) – within 5 years, Medium (M) – 5 to 10 years, or Long (L)-term – more than 10 years, or on-going.

Based on this plan, the following actions will be required, based on the timelines laid out.

#### 5.1.1 All Parks

Recommended Actions – All Parks	Cost	Score	Timeline
1. <b>Mulch Tree Rings</b> - Install mulch tree rings around all of the trees to eliminate/reduce the need for weed whacking against the trunks.	L	12	S
2. <b>Trunk Guards</b> - Install trunk guards on smaller trees to reduce injury from weed whackers.	L	12	S
3. <b>Reduce Irrigation</b> - Reduce irrigation in all parks. Have two or three designated irrigation area types to manage the time and volume of water that is used (e.g. daily areas, weekly areas, and bi-monthly areas). For example, the playing fields would get daily irrigation, the passive areas of the parks would get less frequent watering, and the naturalized fringe areas would get even less water.	L	11	S
4. <b>Reduce Mowed Areas</b> (where possible). Develop naturalized areas with native vegetation and fringe areas that are only mowed a couple of times per year.	L	11	S
5. <b>Parks Donation Program</b> - Develop Parks donation program (benches, tables, trees, etc.)	L	11	In Progress
6. <b>New Off-Leash Areas</b> – See concept for Lions Park	M	10	S - M
7. <b>Murals</b> - Paint murals on park bathroom walls	L	10	M
8. <b>Cigarette Urns</b> - Install cigarette butt urns throughout problem areas.	L	9	M



Recommended Actions – All Parks	Cost	Score	Timeline
<b>9. By-law Revisions</b> - Consider revising the by-law to prohibit smoking only near playgrounds and food vendors, but allow smoking elsewhere. That would rationalize the installation of urns elsewhere and might provide a better chance to manage the problematic behaviors (i.e. cigarette butt littering and second hand smoke).	L	9	M
<b>10. By-law Enforcement</b> - Improve by-law enforcement for off-leash dogs and smoking in parks.	H	8	M
<b>11. Bathroom Renovations</b> - Renovate the bathrooms to provide wheelchair accessibility throughout.	M	8	M
<b>12. Signage</b> - Improved and consistent park signage (what it's for, hours of operation, etc.) and way-finding throughout town.	M	8	M
<b>13. Green Roofs</b> - Explore the construction of green roofs on bathroom buildings.	M	7	L
<b>14. Overhaul Problem Areas</b> – See Park Concepts	M	6	L
<b>15. Playground Surfacing</b> - Change from Pea gravel to Fibar (Lions Park, Rotary, Kinsmen, etc.).	H	4	L

### 5.1.2 Lions Park

Recommended Actions – Lions Park	Cost	Score	Timeline
<b>1. Improve Sightlines</b> - Limb up the trees to provide better sightlines into the park. See Lions Park Concept item A.	L	11	S
<b>2. Additional Food Vendors</b> - Solicit more food vendors to increase use of park and “eyes on the street”	L	11	S
<b>3. New Off-Leash Area</b> - Establish Off-Leash Dog area in North portion of park. See Lions Park Concept.	M	10	S
<b>4. Collaborate on “Park Charter”</b> - Work with park visitors / regulars to establish cooperative sets of acceptable behavior / activities so locals and tourists are not scared away.	L	10	S
<b>5. Nature-Based Play Area</b> - New nature-based play in the middle of the exercise loop on the south end. See Lions Park Concept.	M	9	M
<b>6. Invest in Park</b> - Improved design and maintenance to attract more people into the park – show community investment in it. See Lions Park Concept.	H	8	M
<b>7. Improve slope along roadway at south</b> – to reduce / eliminate the “hours spent weed whacking the slope along the roadway in the south”, remove the rocks and replant with low-maintenance solution (e.g. bunch grass and desert-appropriate plants). See Lions Park Concept item E.	M	7	L



Recommended Actions – Lions Park	Cost	Score	Timeline
8. <b>Skate Park Expansion</b> - Expansion of the skate park and rectify the conflict between the basketball court and the skate park users. See Lions Park Concept.	H	6	L
9. <b>Improve Drainage in North</b> - Explore the possibility of installing drain lines out to the water course (mid-term) and potentially raise up the grades in the area (long-term).	H	4	L

### 5.1.3 Community Park

Recommended Actions – Community Park	Cost	Score	Timeline
1. <b>Trees</b> - Continually plant trees. Incorporate regular arborist care for existing trees (e.g. pruning, pest control, fertilization as required). Protection of the tree trunks from mower/weed whacker damage. Strategically leave open areas for festival tents.	L	12	S
2. <b>Seating</b> - Develop seating nooks all around the park with clusters of rocks & benches.	L	11	S
3. <b>Move Off-leash dog area</b> - Develop a dog off-leash area north of the tennis courts.	M	8	M
4. <b>Power</b> – install additional power outlets for special events.	M	7	L
5. <b>Pickleball</b> - Enlarge the hard court to include ‘Pickleball’.	M	6	L
6. <b>Ball Diamond Upgrades</b> - Upgrade shale on ball diamonds. Upgrade the dugouts by extending them and adding roofs. Install new / improved bleachers.	H	4	L Ongoing

### 5.1.4 Rotary Beach Park

Recommended Actions – Rotary Beach Park	Cost	Score	Timeline
1. <b>Water Quality</b> - Publicize the current water testing on site and in paper.	L	12	S
2. <b>Adjust Irrigation Timing</b> - Adjust the timing so water doesn't pond near slope toe. Adjust the heads to remove those closest to the sand that get jammed.	L	11	S
3. <b>Child Friendly Fencing</b> (Lakeside resort barbed wire fence) - Install a neighbor-friendly fence or planting to discourage access to the barbed wire. See Rotary Beach Park Concept item G.	L	11	S
4. <b>Create Natural Barrier</b> - Create barrier between water's edge and grass – riparian area, cattails, etc. Continue egg addling. Work with neighbouring property owners to develop a concerted effort for geese control. See Rotary Beach Park Concept item C.	L	10	S
5. <b>Naturalize Slope</b> - Allow portions of the slope to naturalize to minimize mowing steep areas.	L	10	S



Recommended Actions – Rotary Beach Park	Cost	Score	Timeline
<b>6. Introduce more benches and tables.</b> Move away from concrete tables, but create larger cement pads for tables.	L	9	M
<b>7. Increase Accessibility</b> - Create a couple of accessible picnic tables. Include wheelchair accessible ramp(s). Washrooms will need fixing to make them accessible (currently steps). See Rotary Beach Park Concept.	M	8	M
<b>8. Invest in swimming area</b> - Waterslide. Buoys to define the swim area. See Rotary Beach Park Concept.	M	8	M
<b>9. Bathroom roof</b> - Plant green roof on bathroom building (currently sheet metal view). See Rotary Beach Park Concept item D.	M	7	L
<b>10. Paddling Center</b> - Introduce paddling center with dock. Include a storage area for boats. Reduce mowing on the west side to once or twice per year to allow it to naturalize. Create meadow look around boating area (it will get worn down anyway by boat loading, etc.). Develop a less formal walkway down to the dock/water as part of the paddling centre. See Rotary Beach Park Concept.	H	6	L
<b>11. Inviting Entrance</b> - Open up the main pedestrian entrance to provide a more welcoming entrance to the park. See Rotary Beach Park Concept.	H	6	L
<b>12. Seating</b> - Install composite on the cement terrace so it's friendlier for sitting. See Rotary Beach Park Concept.	M	6	L

### 5.1.5 Kinsmen Splash Park

Recommended Actions – Kinsmen Splash Park	Cost	Score	Timeline
<b>Safety</b> - Trees (cottonwoods) are a potential safety issue – consider removing or replacing.	L	10	S
<b>Signage</b> – Consolidate existing signage.	L	9	M
<b>Washroom</b> - Upgrade washrooms with power (currently none).	M	8	M
<b>Fencing</b> - Replace fencing on north side.	M	7	L
<b>Improve entrance</b> - Welcome sign / archway. Flowers in entrance way. Pave between entrance and bathrooms.	M	7	L
<b>Parking</b> - Pave parking lot.	M	6	L



## 5.2 Implementation Tools

Implementation of this Plan will require leadership from the OPRS, and input, support and cooperation of residents and stakeholders from the private and public sectors. This section outlines a number of considerations for effective implementation of this Plan.

### 5.2.1 Roles and Responsibilities

**Oliver Town Council** exercises its authority within the mandate of municipal governments prescribed by the Local Government Act. Oliver Town Council is represented on the OPRS with one councillor sitting as a voting member, and 2 other appointments from the general public. Park development must also support the Official Community Plan. Any capital improvements are first approved by the OPRS, and then the budget is approved by Oliver Town Council and the Regional District of the Okanagan Similkameen.

**OPRS Board** -The OPRS Board will adopt the park improvement plan, and integrate the priorities and actions presented into the Society's annual capital plan and budget by providing direction to the Manager of Parks and Recreation for implementation.

**The Public** encompasses a wide range of stakeholders, including residents, advocacy groups, non-profit agencies, businesses and landowners. Active public engagement in decision-making for parks is critical for understanding what residents value, exploring the importance of these values relative to each other, and achieving the future parks vision for Oliver. This Parks Improvement Plan has a number of objectives, policies and actions that will engage the public. It is the public's responsibility to use those opportunities to actively participate in the decision-making process for Oliver's parks.

### 5.2.2 Funding and Financial Planning

A Plan such as this requires careful consideration about costs associated with implementation. Costs may be borne by the Town, OPRS, residents or a combination of the three, and is dependent on the nature of the recommendations. Given the vision for these parks, it is important to ensure that the plan does not put a financial burden on any one party. While the main mechanism is via OPRS Capital budgets, there are many tools to fund park improvements, such as:

- **Advertising** - Advertising space can be sold, including in Parks and Recreation program guides, and other Parks and Recreation venues. Like other municipalities who follow this practice, Oliver could sell naming rights to community facilities, including arenas.
- **Community Fundraising** – Some towns have community groups that help raise funds for park development.
- **Development Levies** – Many towns charge developers for improving infrastructure, and costs to supplement the park system can sometimes be included in levies.
- **Foundation Donations / Gifts** – Some municipalities establish charitable foundations that can accept gifts (such as private donations, endowments and bequests) on behalf of the Town for park development.
- **Grants** – many times grants from the provincial or federal government are used for the park system, particularly for specific purposes like trail development or enhancing tourism.
- **Leasing** – Town-owned land can be leased for amenity services and the funding can go towards the park system.



- **Retail Sales and Rental** – Many parks and recreation facilities also have locations where goods and services are sold (such as concessions) or equipment is rented.
- **Sponsorship** – service clubs and groups often sponsor park and recreation events or facilities.
- **Volunteerism** – Volunteer programs like Adopt-A-Park allow user or citizen groups to assist in green space development and management.

To ensure fiscally appropriate direction is provided by this plan, the OPRS should explore funding beyond its capital budgets for park improvements.

### 5.2.3 Partnerships

While most responsibility for implementing the plan rests with the OPRS, it will be the contributions of the Oliver community at large that will make it a success. Community Participation in the park vision will also include a number of partnerships, many existing and some to be created in the future. These partnerships will contribute to parks in some way, including funding and acquisition strategies, advocacy, protection and maintenance. Community Partnerships have the added benefit of fostering community spirit and ownership in the future green space vision.

Partnerships can include both formal and informal agreements with organizations. The OPRS should continue to foster communication and partnerships between Government agencies, non-profit organizations, community groups and private organizations to acquire, protect, maintain and advocate for Oliver's parks. The OPRS should continue to:

- Invite existing and new partners to participate in park development and programming.
- Support Community Associations and ensure their participation in park development where appropriate.
- Work with non-profit organizations on education opportunities.
- Evaluate the existing partnerships at least every 3 years to determine if the arrangements are providing mutual benefits and are fulfilling their identified outcomes.





## APPENDIX

### Stakeholder Engagement Presentation



# Oliver Parks & Recreation Society *Park Development Plan*



Stakeholder Engagement Day

25 September 2015

*Alex Taylor - Dillon Consulting Limited*

*Bob Lilly - BLLA*



## Outline

- Introductions
- Background
- Inventory & Survey Overview
- Issues & Opportunities
- Next Steps
- Questions



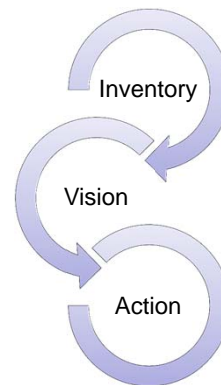
## Why are Parks Important?

- Parks are integral parts of an urban area:
  - Air Quality
  - Stormwater & flood control
  - Health, Wellness and recreation
  - Increased property values
  - Quality of life
  - Biodiversity & habitat





## Why a Park Development Plan?

- Long-term vision of the “system”
- Build on current inventory
- Prioritize issues & opportunities
- Develop Concepts & Action Plan



## Timeline & Plan Process

- Complete:
  - 🕒 Phase 1 – Inventory & Review Survey: September
- Today:
  - Stakeholder Engagement
    - ❑ Identify / confirm largest issues
    - ❑ Brainstorm potential opportunities / solutions
    - ❑ Prioritize potential improvements / projects
- Next Steps:
  - Phase 2 – Park Improvement Plan: Early October
  - Phase 3 – Action / Implementation Plan: Late October


## BC & Canada Park Trends

- Pressure on existing Parks
- Aging population
- Lack of free time for recreation
- Changing recreation preferences:
  - Walking and jogging up, organized sports down (in general)
- Pesticide use, biodiversity loss, climate change
- Nature-based play
- Naturalization








## Phase 1 – Inventory



## Rotary Park & Beach

- **Good:**
  - Very good park grass
  - Trees
  - Picnic area
- **Needs Improvement:**
  - Geese and dog control
  - bylaw enforcement

***Discussion***  
*Is this accurate?*



## Rotary Park & Beach

- **Potential Opportunities:**
  - Boat Launch?
  - Enhanced water / human interface?
  - Improved sense of entry from parking to the park?
  - More “welcome spaces” (e.g. seating nooks)?
  - Environmentally-friendly water’s edge?
  - Upgrade the washrooms? Green roof?
  - Others?



## Kinsmen Splash Park & Playground

- **Good:**
  - Very good playground
  - Parking
  - Grass
- **Needs Improvement:**
  - Washrooms
  - Additional shade
  - More benches / seating



*Discussion*  
*Is this accurate?*



## Kinsmen Splash Park & Playground

- **Potential Opportunities:**
  - Improve entry experience?
  - Enhance washroom / playground interface?
  - Develop fun, inviting seating nooks?
  - Others?



## Community Park & Stage

- **Good:**
  - Very good pathway
  - Special events
- **Needs Improvement:**
  - Additional shade
  - Dog control



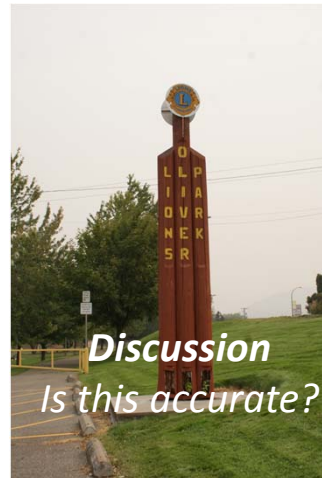
## Community Park & Stage

- **Potential Opportunities:**
  - Playground?
  - Enhance the stream in front of the office?
  - Develop water access to the Okanagan River by the 79<sup>th</sup> Street bridge?
  - Enhance the office courtyard?
  - Bleachers for tournament spectators?
  - Others?



## Lions Park

- **Good:**
  - Very good shelter
- **Needs improvement:**
  - Safety
  - Transient population
  - Open drug & alcohol use
  - Dog control



*Discussion  
Is this accurate?*





## Lions Park

- **Potential Opportunities:**
  - Improve “eyes on the street”?
  - Anti-loitering strategies?
  - Upgrade the playground? Integrate it into the site with seating nooks, etc.?
  - Develop river access (e.g. boardwalk)?
  - Seating nooks near the new outdoor fitness equipment?
  - Naturalization/environmental education?
  - Others?



## Top Issues & Opportunities

1. Dog control
2. Washrooms- upgrades and opening hours
3. Bylaw enforcement (dogs, transient population, alcohol and drug use)
4. Geese
5. Shade



## Discussion – Opportunities & Priorities

- If you had a million dollars
  - Breakdown to each park?
  - What would you spend it on?
- Prioritization



## Next Steps

- **Gap Analysis**
- **Capital Improvement Plan**
- **Concept Drawings**





## Thank You



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## Questions?



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