



Regional Board Report

Request for Decision

To: Regional Board
From: Manager – Parks Capital Planning & Asset Management
Date: April 3, 2025
Subject: Kalamoior Regional Park Management Plan

Voting Entitlement: *All Directors - Unweighted Corporate Vote - Simple Majority (LGA s.208)*

Purpose: To seek Regional Board approval for the Kalamoior Regional Park Management Plan dated April 2025.

Executive Summary:

Kalamoior Regional Park is 27.6-hectare natural area park managed for its ecosystems and wildlife values while balancing the needs for passive recreational opportunities for the public. The Park's location on Okanagan Lake makes it an idyllic place to connect with nature, relax on the beach, and enjoy the network of multi-use trails crisscrossing the natural landscape.

In 2021, the RDCO Parks Services engaged Ecoscape Environmental Consultants to prepare an updated management plan for Kalamoior Regional Park. The management plan went through a rigorous community engagement process and was developed to provide a 20-year vision and guidance on the future development and operation of the park. The plan seeks to build partnerships with local indigenous communities and community groups, ensure public safety, meet service level requirements, engage volunteers, protect nature, and limit park development. The management plan reflects the Regional Board's current strategic priorities, particularly, improving access to the park and accessibility for a wider range of users, and has been incorporated into the future park vision, goals, recommended actions and capital development.

In addition, the management plan includes conceptual park development plans for improvements to the main parking area, a new small mid-way Collens Hill Road parking area, and improvements to the Waterfront and Sunnyside Trails up to a 2.4m wide multi-use standard to increase accessibility, safety for users, and protection of the park's natural features. The improvements to the Waterfront and Sunnyside Trails will provide a multi-use recreational trail connection to active transportation routes north and south of the park, which is consistent with the previous Kalamoior Regional Park Management Plan and decades of Regional Board supported Regional Transportation and Active Transportation planning.

Recommendation(s):

THAT the Regional Board approve the Kalamoior Regional Park Management Plan in the form attached to the Report of the Manager – Parks Capital Planning & Asset Management dated April 3, 2025;

AND THAT the Regional Board supports the Kalamoior Regional Park Management Plan's implementation plan to upgrade the Waterfront Trail and Sunnyside Trail up to a 2.4m wide multi-use standard which is consistent with the previously approved master trail and transportation plans, Okanagan Trail 2000 project, 2005 Kalamoior Regional Park Management Plan, 2011 Regional Active

Transportation Master Plan, 2020 Regional Bicycling and Trails Master Plan, and the 2020 Regional Transportation Plan.

Respectfully Submitted by: Wayne Darlington, Manager – Parks Capital Planning & Asset Management

Approved for Agenda: Sally Ginter, Chief Administrative Officer

Strategic Plan Alignment:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| √ Emergency preparedness | <input type="checkbox"/> Truth and reconciliation |
| √ Health and wellness | √ Environment and climate – Regional priority only |
| √ Regional transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Growth and development – Electoral Area priority only |
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Background:

Kalamoior Regional Park (Kalamoior) is a popular and well used park located along Okanagan Lake in West Kelowna, adjacent to the Sunnyside Road, Collens Hill Road and Casa Loma Road neighbourhoods.

The 27.6-hectare natural area park offers a network of natural surfaced multi-use trails, beach and swim areas, accessible floating canoe/kayak launch and open natural spaces to park visitors. The multi-use waterfront trails are frequently used by bird watchers, dog walkers, hikers, runners, and cyclists.

The park since its acquisition from the provincial government by the RDCO in 1982, has predominantly remained the same. Since that time, much of the work was focused on replacing assets, trail works such as improvements to the Sunnyside and Waterfront trail in 2009, installation of an accessible dock and canoe/kayak launch, forest fire fuel mitigation work, signage, swim area buoys, washrooms, construction of a boardwalk from Casa Loma, closure of the dedicated road along the waterfront portion of the park which were added to the park, and many other small projects.

Much of the work in Kalamoior over the past 20 years was guided by the 2005 Kalamoior Regional Park Management Plan, which requires an update to meet current trends. In particular, the Central Okanagan region is growing rapidly, population is expected to increase by 36% by 2046, from 247,000 residents in 2023 to 335,000 residents by 2046. As population growth increases so does the demand for access to parks and recreational amenities, which in turn presents challenges and opportunities for the development and management of Kalamoior.

Kalamoior over the last 20 plus years has also been identified in various long term planning initiatives related to getting people active and using alternative forms of transportation to help protect our environment and reduce our climate footprint. These long-term plans were supported by previous RDCO Regional Boards, and include the following:

- Okanagan Trail 2000 Project,
- 2005 Kalamoior Regional Park Management Plan,
- 2011 Active Transportation Master Plan,
- 2020 Regional Bicycling and Trails Master Plan, and the
- 2020 Regional Transportation Plan.

In 2021, the RDCO identified a need to update the 2005 Kalamoior Regional Park management plan. The updated Kalamoior Regional Park management plan was developed to better align and reflect the Regional Board's current strategic priorities, and identify the park's vision, goals, challenges, opportunities, and capital development over the next 20 years. The updated plan minimizes adding new assets and infrastructure, there are no new trails being considered, and protection of the natural ecosystems is a priority. The updated plan does focus on increasing park accessibility and access, public safety, partnerships with indigenous communities, connection to other trail networks, forest fire fuel treatments, volunteer opportunities, and trail improvements. The park is limited to further development, this updated plan effectively reaches the parks developable limits while balancing conservation with passive recreation.

Through the process of updating the plan, an extensive public and stakeholder engagement process was undertaken in 2022 to 2023 as part of the management plan development. Public engagement was carried out through online surveys through the RDCO's YourSay consultation platform, in-person open house, on-line forums and a stakeholder workshop. Input received through the engagement process provided valuable feedback on the draft conceptual designs for the Sunnyside Trail and Waterfront Trail improvements, and parking areas.

In general, most input from the public and stakeholder engagement was supportive of the updated concept plan, particularly around the improvements to the parking area, the addition of a small parking area at the mid-point of Collens Hill Road, and the on-going efforts to maintain the natural ecosystems of the park. The biggest concerns related to the concept plan are related to the Waterfront Trail and Sunnyside Trail improvements being proposed. These concerns continue to be raised regarding this portion of the plan, multiple groups and individuals currently have opposing viewpoints, with some not wanting any improvements to these trails, while others wanting a wider more developed trail than what is being proposed, and others who are indifferent or supportive of the proposed trail improvements.

The Implementation of the management plan goals, and recommended action items has been phased over the 20-year timeframe with priority on developing the passive recreational amenities to meet increasing public use, conservation of sensitive habitats and ecosystems, delivery of interpretive and educational programs, and foster partnership opportunities with local indigenous communities and community partner groups. The management plan includes the following key implementation capital projects:

- 1) Upgrades and improvements to the main parking area, to support accessibility in the park and to the accessible dock and canoe/kayak launch, improve vehicle movement and safety of park users, increase the number of parking spaces (where possible) including accessible parking spaces, and to improve access to the beach area.
- 2) Construct a new small 9-10 car parking area, at the midway point on Collens Hill Road, on a previously disturbed area of the park, supporting additional parking and access to the park's trails and amenities.
- 3) Upgrade the Waterfront Trail and Sunnyside Trail to a 2.4m wide multi-use trail standard, to improve trail user safety (ie. guardrails), meet board strategic priorities through improving access and accessibility to a broader demographic range, improved signage, protect conservation (ie. invertebrate boardwalks over scree slope crossings), replace aging assets (bridges and boardwalk), and to provide a multi-use trail connection to the identified active transportation networks to the north and south of the park that is consistent with decades of trail and transportation planning for the region. In addition, the improved trails will also permit improved

access for future forest fire fuel mitigation projects, and wildfire response in the event of an emergency.

The capital development priority for the first phase (Year 1 – 5) will include the trail improvements to widen and resurface the Waterfront and Sunnyside Trails, lower parking lot improvements, the cost for this combined work is estimated at \$1.8 million with funding from grants and existing capital allocation for park improvements. This work supports the RDCO's service delivery of accessible regional parks and providing passive recreational opportunities that supports a healthy lifestyle, connecting residents to nature, and balancing the conservation values of the natural areas within the park. Wherever possible RDCO staff will seek out grants and other funding opportunities to support projects and work as identified within the implementation plan. The overall capital implementation costs for the plan over the 20-year period is estimated at \$2,985,000, which is broken down as follows:

- Short-term (Year 1 – 5) - \$1,960,000 includes the following projects:
 - Lower Parking Area Improvements
 - Sunnyside Trail Improvements
 - Waterfront Trail Improvements
 - Casa Loma Boardwalk Upgrades
 - Park Entrance Signs

- Short-Medium Term (Year 6 – 10) - \$310,000 includes the following projects:
 - Washroom Replacement
 - Upper Rim Trail Improvements
 - Parks Signage Updates

- Medium-Long Term (Year 11 – 15) - \$640,000 includes the following projects:
 - Collens Hill Road Repaving
 - Parks Signage Updates
 - Collens Hill Road Parking Area Construction
 - Collens Hill Road Parking Area Washroom

- Long Term (Year 16 – 20) - \$75,000 includes the following projects:
 - Park Entrance Sign Replacements
 - Parks Signage Updates
 - Park Management Plan Update

The operational implementation component of the management plan over the 20-year period is estimated to cost \$522,000, which focuses on operational maintenance and maintaining service level requirements, wildfire mitigation, tree of heaven mitigation, volunteer events, swim area improvements, and on-going washroom maintenance. The funding for the operational and capital implementation component(s) will be considered by the Regional Board each year through the development and presentation of the RDCO's 5 Year Financial Plans.

The proposed improvements to the Waterfront and Sunnyside Trails were identified to find a balance in perspective between opposing views, where care is being taken to protect the parks ecosystems while still achieving a 2.4m wide multi-use trail that provides a greater opportunity for a wider range of users, and improved trail safety. The proposed trail is 2.4m wide, with 0.5m wide vegetation management area on either side of the trail. It is important to note that ~80% of the existing trail (both trails) is already greater than 1.5 meters in width, with ~20% of the existing trail being between 1.0 to 1.5 meters in width.

The maximum width of the proposed trail is 2.4m wide, however, it is anticipated that short sections of the trail may not be able to achieve the full 2.4m width. The proposed trail project does not meet urban active transportation standards, it does however provide a safe multi-use trail connection that connects to identified active transportation networks north and south of the park. The following identifies the rationale for proposing these trail improvements:

- Increase user safety of the Waterfront and Sunnyside Multi-Use Trails – install guardrails, improve site lines, improve signage, increase width of trail to 2.4 meters where possible to permit users to safely pass each other, manage vegetation within 0.5m of the trail edge, replace bridges, and to keep trail users on defined trails minimizing rogue trails.
- Cycling currently is permitted on the Waterfront and Sunnyside Multi-Use Trails – the trails are regulated by the Regional Parks Regulation Bylaw 1427 and permits cycling. Cyclists must follow the requirements of the bylaw, including speed limits which are 15km/h, and are to follow typical trail etiquette where cyclists need to yield to hikers and horses, and hikers need to yield to horses. Improvements as noted will assist in making the trails safer for all uses.
- Increase accessibility and access within the park – increase the width of trail to 2.4 meters wide, where possible, improve surfacing with a smooth compacted crush surfacing, adjust grades where possible. This provides the ability for a wider range of public, including those with lower abilities, to use the park, and for opportunities for alternative methods to access the park, such as cycling.
- Protect parks species and ecosystems – minimize disturbance through trail widening, protect invertebrates by constructing a trail width boardwalk (habitat bridge) over the two scree crossings, plant native tree and non-tree species, minimize erosion.
- Meeting strategic board priorities – increasing access to Regional Parks, supporting healthy living and connecting residents to nature, improving accessibility, reducing our carbon impact through use of alternative transportation.
- Meeting long-term trail planning initiatives and regional connections – Okanagan Trail 2000, 2005 Kalamo Regional Park Management Plan, 2011 Regional Active Transportation Master Plan, 2020 Regional Bicycling and Trails Master Plan, and 2020 Regional Transportation Plan.

In conclusion, the Kalamo Regional Park Management Plan is generally a status quo management plan that protects and conserves the parks natural ecosystems while balancing passive recreation opportunities in a responsible and respectful manner. The main priorities for improvements within the park are centred around board strategic priorities that support access to regional parks and for regional parks to be more inclusive and accessible to a broader demographic of regional residents.

As a result, RDCO staff are recommending that the Regional Board approves the Kalamo Regional Park Management Plan and Implementation Plan as presented, that includes trail upgrades for the Waterfront and Sunnyside Trails up to a 2.4m wide, which provides a critical public safety improvements and a multi-use trail connection to the identified active transportation networks north and south of the park. This is consistent with the board's current strategic priorities and decades of trail and transportation planning supported by previous regional boards as identified previously.

If the Regional Board is not supportive of the recommendation identified above, staff have provided two alternate recommendations for consideration.

Considerations:*Organizational/External:*

The approval of the Kalamoior Regional Park Management Plan with Implementation Plan inclusive of the Waterfront Trail and Sunnyside Trail widening up to a 2.4m wide multi-use standard will provide a trail connection to active transportation connections north and south of the park. The completion of the trail widening completes a portion of the decades long work towards a successful region wide multi-use active trail network. These long-term plans include, the Okanagan Trail 2000 project, 2005 Kalamoior Regional Park Management Plan, 2011 Regional Active Transportation Master Plan, 2020 Regional Bicycling and Trails Master Plan, 2020 Regional Transportation Plan, and the 2020 City of West Kelowna's Westside Trail Technical Brief.

Financial:

The management plan will provide the overall vision and a 20-year implementation plan to guide future park development priorities, capital and operational needs, for consideration as part of the development of future Regional District 5 Year RDCO Financial Plans. RDCO will continue to seek opportunities to obtain external funding sources and grants to assist in the delivery of capital projects.

*Alternate Recommendation(s):***Alternate Recommendation #1:**

THAT the Regional Board approve the Kalamoior Regional Park Management Plan in the form attached to the Report of the Manager – Parks Capital Planning & Asset Management dated April 3, 2025;

AND THAT the Regional Board supports the Kalamoior Regional Park Management Plan's implementation plan, as set out in Option 1.2 of the Implementation Option(s) Tables attached to this Report, to upgrade the Waterfront Trail up to a 2.4m wide multi-use standard and limit improvements to the Sunnyside Trail to necessary public safety trail improvements, conservation measures and maintain the trail to a narrow multi-use standard.

Alternate Recommendation #2:

THAT the Regional Board approve the Kalamoior Regional Park Management Plan in the form attached to the Report of the Manager – Parks Capital Planning & Asset Management dated April 3, 2025;

AND THAT the Regional Board supports the Kalamoior Regional Park Management Plan's implementation plan, as set out in Option 1.3 of the Implementation Option(s) Tables attached to this Report, to limit improvements to the Waterfront Trail and Sunnyside Trail to necessary public safety trail improvements, conservation measures and maintain the trails to a narrow multi-use standard.

Considerations not applicable:

- Legal/Statutory Authority

Attachment(s):

- 1) Final Draft Kalamo Regional Park Management Plan
 - 2) Kalamo Regional Park Management Plan – Implementation Option(s) Tables
 - 3) Type 2 Multi-Use Trail X-Section – Kalamo
 - 4) Kalamo Regional Park Management Plan-Waterfront and Sunnyside Trail Video Tour
 - 5) 2025-04-03 Kalamo Regional Park Management Plan Presentation
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