

Mission Creek Regional Park Management Plan

Governance and Services Committee Meeting

July 8, 2021

1450 K.L.O. Road
Kelowna, BC, V1W 3Z4
rdco.com



Natural Area | Urban Park

Mission Creek Regional Park

- Natural Area Park (92-hectare)
- Environmental Education Centre for the Okanagan (EECO)
- Community gathering place
- Annual Kikinee Festival
- Access point to the Mission Creek Greenway
- Nature programs like Learn to Fish and guided hikes
- Wildlife viewing in a variety of ecosystems



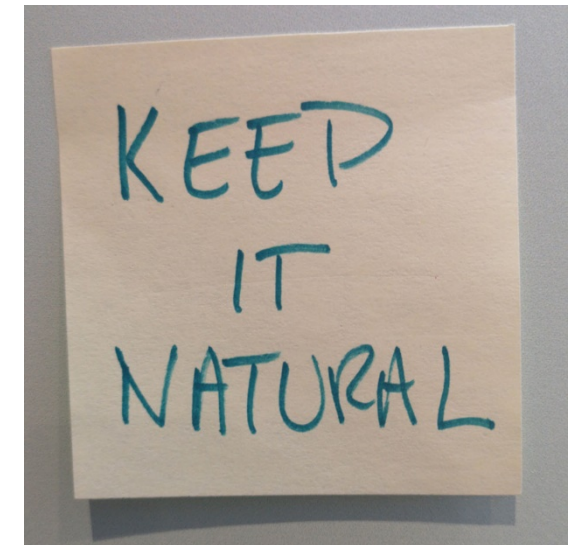
Initial Public Engagement

What People Love

- EECO
- Nature trails
- Access to nature
- Playground
- Turtle watching
- Fishing pond
- Place to gather
- Access to Greenway

What Needs Improvement

- Year-round trail access
- More washrooms, benches, picnic tables, shade shelters, water fountains, bike racks, etc.
- Clarifying signage
- Trail accessibility
- Dog management



Park Assessment

Strengths

- Central located in the community
- Multi-modal access
- Established events and nature programs
- Kokanee spawning channel
- Wildlife viewing opportunities
- Variety of habitats

Weaknesses

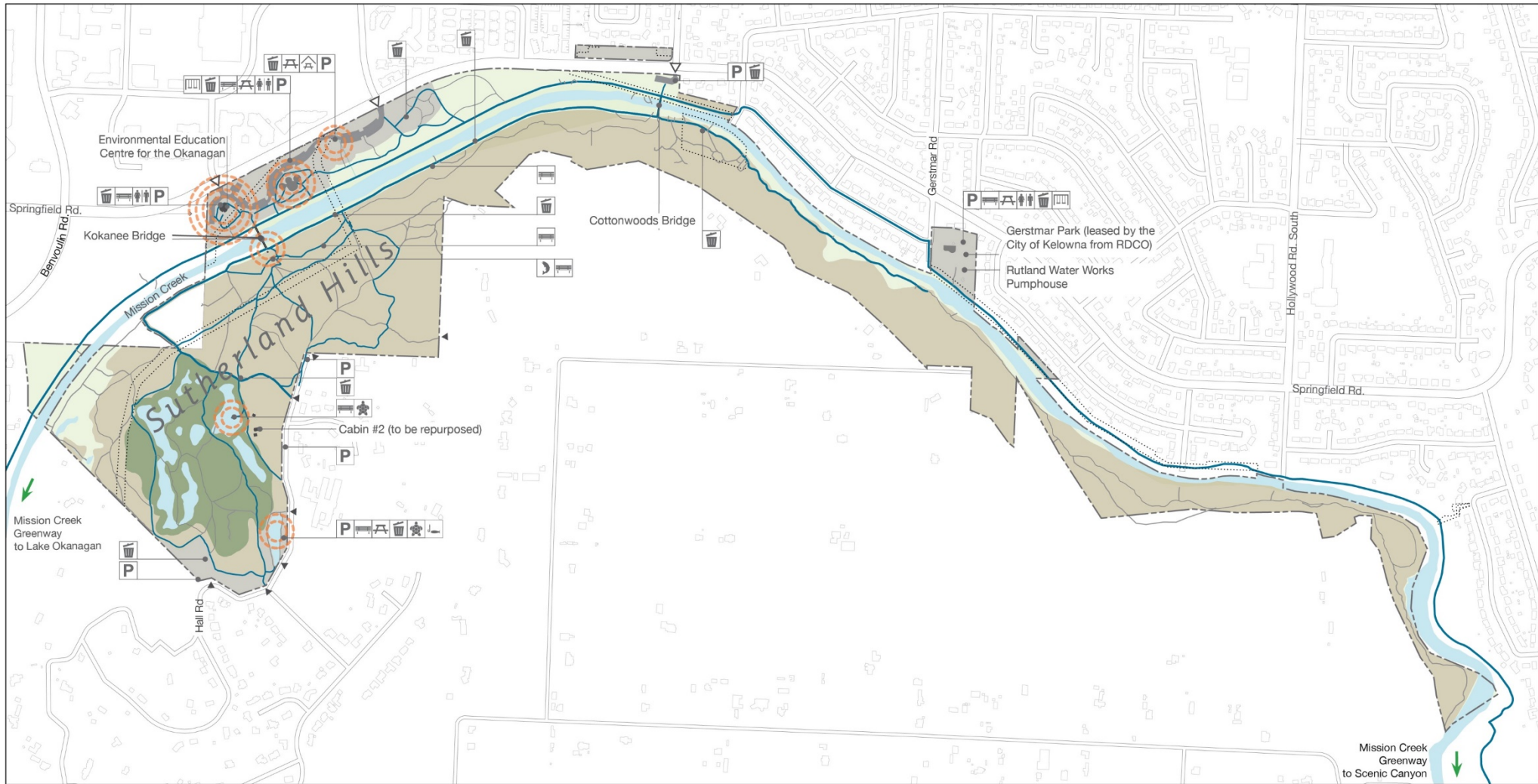
- Many unsanctioned trails
- Wayfinding is challenging
- Shortage of washrooms, benches, picnic shelters, water receptacles etc.

Opportunities

- Establish park as an indigenous storytelling hub for the region
- Revitalize the East Park Area to increase park activities and amenities for public use over a larger area
- Connect to Kelowna's active transportation network
- Increase nature-based play for children of all ages
- Develop an area off of Hall Road to improve access and amenities in Sutherland Hills

Threats

- Effects of climate change
- Increased urban density



SITE ANALYSIS

MISSION CREEK REGIONAL PARK

NTS

0 80 160 240 320 400m



ACTIVITY NODE



UTILITY EASEMENT



EXISTING BRIDGE



BUILDINGS

DESIGNATED TRAIL

SANCTIONED TRAIL

VEHICULAR ACCESS POINT

PEDESTRIAN ACCESS POINT

PARK MANAGEMENT ZONES:

ECOSYSTEM

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

SPECIAL PRESERVATION

PARK SERVICES

PARK AMENITIES & ACTIVITIES:

BENCHES

FISHING FOR CHILDREN

KOKANEE VIEWING

PARKING

PICNIC TABLES

PICNIC SHELTER

PLAYGROUND

TURTLE VIEWING

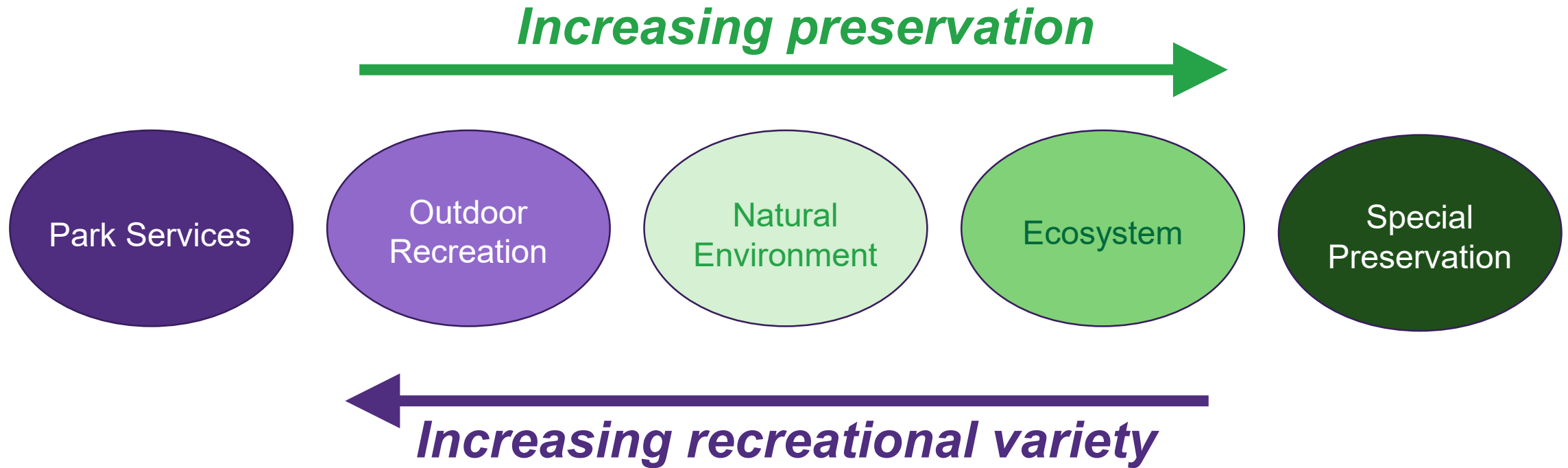
WASHROOM BUILDING

WASTE RECEPTACLE

Vision for the Park

- Provide a natural sanctuary in the heart of the Central Okanagan
- Acknowledge Mission Creek as a historic First Nations gathering place
- Connect people with nature, culture, outdoor recreation, and community
- Protection and conservation of unique ecosystems in the park
- Continue offering Okanagan based-nature education / interpretation programs
- Create an inclusive and accessible place for gathering and outdoor recreation

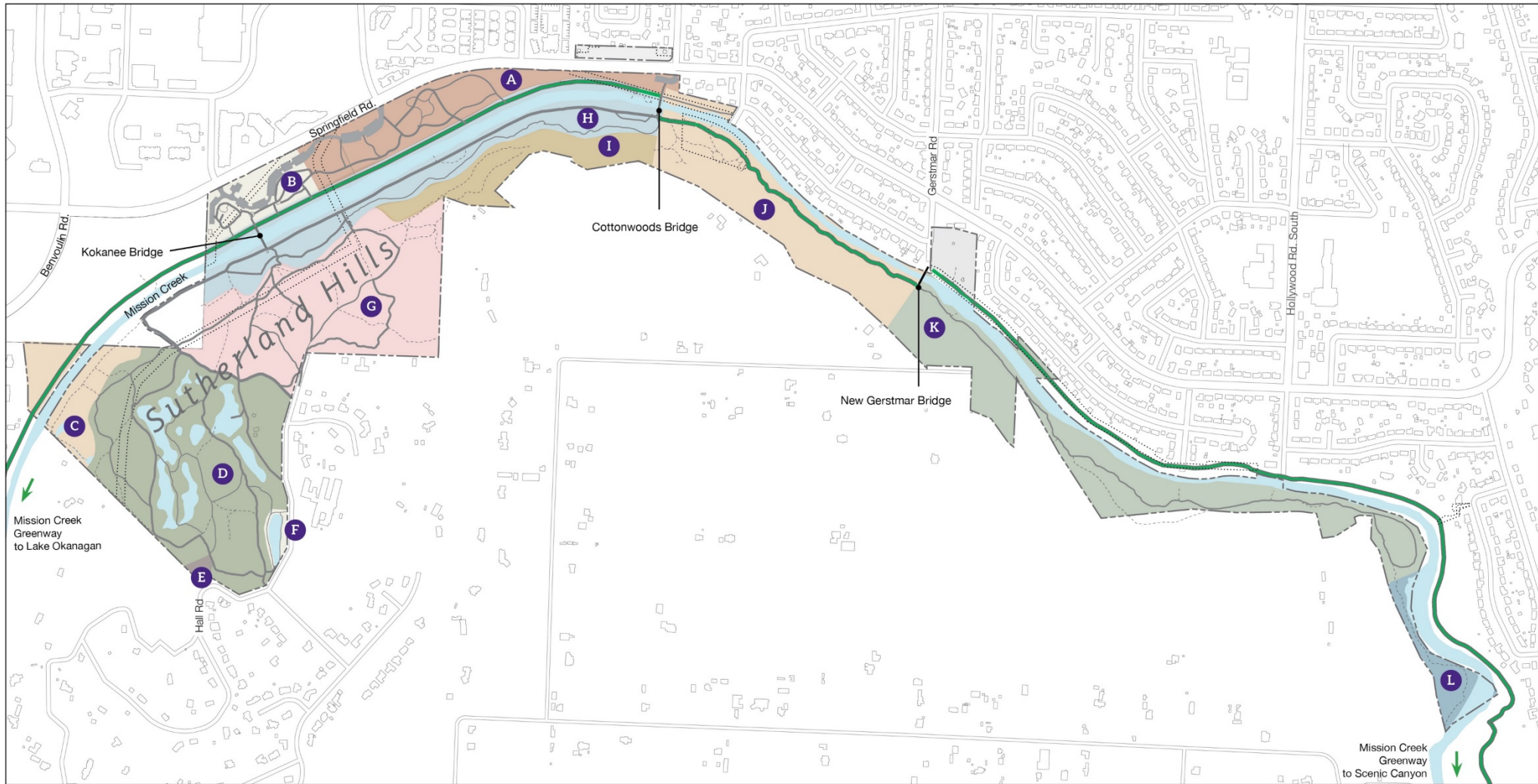
Park Use by Management Zone



Park Concept Plan

Highlights

- East Park Area design and Regional Parks Accessibility Resource Centre
- Bookable public outdoor event spaces
- First Nations cultural node near the EECO
- Cottonwood conservation area
- Ecological enhancement of Turtle Pond
- Hall Road amenity and parking area
- Designated off-leash dog trail
- Greenway connection through the park over new Gerstmar Bridge
- Repurpose Cabin #2
- Connect Hall Road community to the Kelowna's active transportation network



PARK CONCEPT PLAN

MISSION CREEK REGIONAL PARK

1 NTS

0 80 160 240 320 400m

AREAS LEGEND:

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|
| A EAST PARK REDESIGN | E HALL ROAD PARKING AREA | I CLIFFSIDE EROSION CONTROL AREA |
| B GATHERING & EDUCATION PLACE | F FISHING POND IMPROVEMENTS | J NEW GREENWAY CONNECTION |
| C COTTONWOOD FOREST CONSERVATION | G UPLANDS WALKING AREA | K OFF-LEASH DOG TRAIL |
| D SUTHERLAND HILLS RESTORATION | H STREAM-SIDE WALKING LOOP | L EAST ARM CONSERVATION AREA |

East Park Improvements

Highlights

- Regional Parks Accessibility Resource Centre
- Bookable public outdoor event spaces
- Expanded lawn area
- Children's nature play area
- Trail circulation and surfacing improvements
- New picnic shelters
- New pedestrian bridges
- Cottonwood forest restoration
- Additional parking





EAST PARK CONCEPT PLAN

MISSION CREEK REGIONAL PARK



AREAS LEGEND:

- A** EXPANDED LAWN AREA
- B** REPLACED & RELOCATED PICNIC SHELTER
- C** EXPANDED PARKING AREA
- D** NATIVE FOREST BUFFER
- E** NEW BUS STOP
- F** HANDI-DART DROFFOFF & SHELTER
- G** REGIONAL PARKS ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCE CENTRE
- H** BOOKABLE OUTDOOR PLAZA WITH COVERED SEATING
- I** EVENT / PICNIC LAWN
- J** NEW PICNIC SHELTER
- K** FLOODPLAIN INTERPRETIVE AREA
- L** NATURE PLAY AREA
- M** NATIVE SHRUB & MEADOW PLANTING
- N** COTTONWOOD RESTORATION AREA

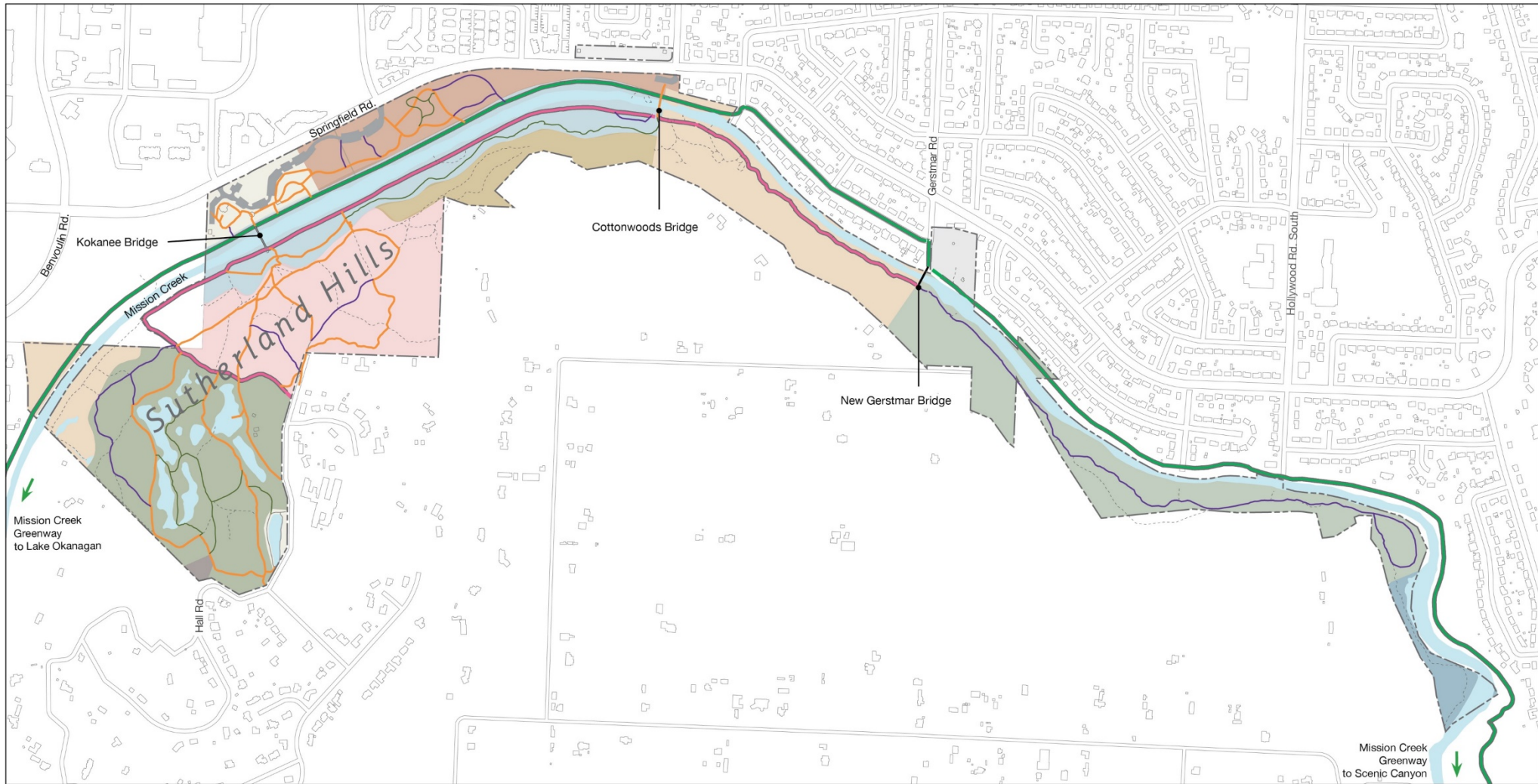
LEGEND

- PROPERTY BOUNDARY
- 2m WALKWAY (GRAVEL)
- 1m TRAIL (NATIVE MATERIAL)
- NEW FOOTBRIDGE
- NATURE OBSTACLE COURSE ELEMENTS
- IRRIGATION CHANNEL
- SPLIT RAIL FENCE
- PICNIC TABLE

Trail Network

Improvements to enhance the user experience and preserve the park:

- Establish a clear hierarchy of trails
- Anticipate trail users desire lines
- A park-wide unified signage strategy
- Decommission redundant trails
- Maintain trail surface to park standard
- Place key amenities on trails at strategic locations
- Connect to active transportation network
- Educate user on shared multi-use trail etiquette



TRAIL & CIRCULATION PLAN

MISSION CREEK REGIONAL PARK

NTS

0 80 160 240 320 400m

TRAIL LEGEND:

- EXISTING GREENWAY
- TYPE 1 MAJOR MULTI-USE TRAIL (2,430 l.m.)
- TYPE 2 STANDARD MULTI-USE TRAIL (5,205 l.m.)
- TYPE 3 NARROW MULTI-USE TRAIL (3,115 l.m.)
- NATURE TRAIL (2,005 l.m.)
- - - DECOMMISSIONED TRAIL (5,365 l.m.)
- ▲ TRAIL ACCESS POINT

Management Goals & Recommendations

Environment and Conservation

Protect, conserving and enhancing wildlife habitat by reducing the impact of the trail network and park maintenance on critical habitat

Action #10: Create an Ecological Restoration Plan for the park that includes a detailed weed management strategy

Action #14: Explore the provision of viewing areas and platforms that prevent human entry into spawning habitat

Recreation and Access

Provide a variety of positive park experiences to people of all abilities

Action #25: Focus existing & future programming, infrastructure and recreation to less sensitive and/or already disturbed areas.

Action #40: Provide picnic shelters near the EECO, East Park and in the Hall Road Parking Area to provide shade and cover

Stewardship and Partnerships

Engage new park conservation and restoration activities in research and the arts

Action 49: Pursue programming opportunities with local academic research/institutions, Westbank First Nation and community organizations

Education and Interpretation

Provide high-quality environmental and cultural interpretation in the Central Okanagan

Action #54: Minimize wildlife conflicts by including prevention and mitigation information in interpretative programs

Human Safety and Security

Offer a safe user experience

Action #62: Design and develop the park in a manner that minimizes or deters inappropriate activities and is in keeping with current Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CEPTED) principles

Climate Adaptability, Climate Resiliency and Sustainable Parks

Maintain the park for future use and respond to the impacts of climate change

Action #73: Establish baseline; measure, monitor and evaluate annually for impacts, conditions and management strategies

Implementation – Capital Development

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Category	Number of Action Items	Short Term (Yr 1-5)	Short - Medium Term (Yr 6-10)	Medium - Long Term (Yr 11-15)	Long Term (Yr 16-20)	Total (Yr 1-20)
Environment & Conservation	10	\$100,000.00	\$275,000.00	\$215,000.00	\$175,000.00	\$765,000.00
Recreation & Access	17	\$440,000.00	\$275,000.00	\$325,000.00	\$680,000.00	\$1,720,000.00
Stewardship & Partnerships	0					
Education & Interpretation	1	\$250,000.00				\$250,000.00
Human Safety & Security	4					
Climate Adaptability, Climate Resiliency and Sustainable Parks	8					
Totals by Term		\$790,000.00	\$550,000.00	\$540,000.00	\$855,000.00	\$2,735,000.00

Implementation – Operational Costs

OPERATIONAL COST

Category	Number of Action Items	Short Term (Yr 1-5)	Short - Medium Term (Yr 6-10)	Medium - Long Term (Yr 11-15)	Long Term (Yr 16-20)	Total (Yr 1-20)
Environment & Conservation	13	\$10,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$65,000.00
Recreation & Access	8	\$60,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$10,000.00		\$170,000.00
Stewardship & Partnerships	2					
Education & Interpretation	7		\$50,000.00			\$50,000.00
Human Safety & Security	3					
Climate Adaptability, Climate Resiliency and Sustainable Parks	0					
Totals by Term		\$70,000.00	\$185,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$285,000.00

Recommendation

THAT the Governance and Services Committee recommends the Regional Board approve the Mission Creek Regional Park Management Plan dated June 2021.