



Regional Board Report

Information

Approved for Board Consideration

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Reardon".

Brian Reardon, CAO

To: Regional Board

From: Murray Kopp, Director – Parks Services

Date: October 13, 2022

Subject: Mission Creek Restoration Initiative – Lower Mission Creek Habitat Conservation and Restoration Plan

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

Purpose: To present information regarding the Mission Creek Restoration Initiative's Lower Mission Creek Habitat Conservation and Restoration Plan.

Executive Summary:

The Mission Creek Restoration Initiative (MCRI) is a multi-phase, multi-stakeholder partnership officially formed in 2008 with the intent to restore the natural function to the lower sections of Mission Creek. The primary goal is to restore fish and wildlife stocks and habitat. Complementary objectives are to conserve and expand biodiversity and species at risk, to improve flood protection, and to inspire and support community stewardship.

The Lower Mission Creek Habitat Conservation and Restoration Plan, completed in 2022, provides a comprehensive, conceptual level strategy with adaptive recommendations to guide the future conservation and restoration activities on the lower twelve kilometers of Mission Creek.

Recommendation(s):

THAT the Regional Board receive the Mission Creek Restoration Initiative's Lower Mission Creek Habitat Conservation and Restoration Plan as attached to the report from the Director of Parks Services dated October 13, 2022 for information.

Respectfully submitted by: Sandy Mah, Parks Planner

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Murray Kopp".

Murray Kopp, Director - Parks Services

Attachment(s):

- 1 – Lower Mission Creek Habitat Conservation and Restoration Plan, July 2022
- 2 – Lower Mission Creek Habitat Conservation and Restoration PowerPoint

Strategic Plan Alignment:

Priorities: Environment, Sustainable Communities

Values: Relationships, Collaboration

Background:

The Mission Creek Restoration Initiative (MCRI) is a multi-phased, multi-stakeholder partnership, officially formed in 2008, comprised of representatives from the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development; Central Okanagan Land Trust; City of Kelowna; Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Friends of Mission Creek; Okanagan Nation Alliance; Regional District of Central Okanagan and Westbank First Nation.

The Overall Vision Statement for the MCRI, states the following:

“Restoring and protecting Mission Creek to enrich ecological, social, cultural, recreational, and economic values and benefits for the Okanagan”.

From 2015 to 2019, the MCRI undertook a large-scale habitat restoration project located downstream of the Casorso Road Bridge, which involved relocating a 500-meter section of the dike and Mission Creek Greenway Regional Park, expanding the floodplain, restoring the riparian habitat, increasing kokanee spawning habitat and conducting yearly restoration monitoring.

As a result of these positive restoration efforts, the MCRI then utilized this momentum towards the development of the *“Lower Mission Creek Habitat Conservation and Restoration Plan”*, which focuses on restoration and conservation objectives on the reach of Mission Creek from Okanagan Lake to East Kelowna Road.

In 2022, following several years of extensive planning and technical reviews by the MCRI steering committee, the *“Lower Mission Creek Habitat Conservation and Restoration Plan”* was completed. The Plan provides the long-term, conceptual level strategy to guide the restoration and protection of Mission Creek. The Plan recommendations promote a multi-pronged approach comprised of dike setbacks, floodplain expansion, riffles, and sediment basin construction.

Some of the future benefits of realigning the dike and expanding the floodplain include:

- Reduced erosion and flood risk
- Improved water quality
- Enhanced wildlife migration corridors
- Recharged groundwater supplies
- Expanded recreational opportunities

The Plan is an adaptive living document that supports future collaborative opportunities and beneficial partnerships to address mutual areas of interest to increase resiliency to climate change, improve flood

protection and mitigation planning, and to promote public stewardship and outreach on the benefits of ecosystem restoration.

Considerations:

Considerations not applicable:

- Organizational/External
 - Financial
 - Legal/Statutory Authority
 - Alternate Recommendation
-