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**CITY OF KELOWNA**  
**MEMORANDUM**

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**Date:** July 22, 2002  
**File No.:** 6140-20

**To:** Ron Born, City Manager

**From:** Joe Creron, Parks Manager

**Subject:** City Park Master Plan Update

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**THAT** Council approve the updated City Park Master Plan as a guide for development;  
**AND THAT** improvements be implemented in accordance with the 10-Year Capital Plan.

**BACKGROUND:**

At the Parks & Facilities Committee of February 28, 2002 the following motion was approved.

“THAT the Parks & Facilities recommend that Council approve the City Parks Master Plan – Option A (Enclosure I)”

A number of issues and potential changes required that the original 1992 City Park Master Plan be revisited. The issues included among other things, the impact of the proposed Okanagan Lake Bridge, erosion at Hot/Cold Sands Beach, conflicts on the promenade between various users (i.e. cyclists, roller bladers, joggers, pedestrians and vendors), safety issues, tour bus parking, updating of playground, dogs in parks, more festivals, requests to reintroduce the old aquatics theme and loop road.

A public open house was held Sunday, June 17, 2001 in City Park to solicit input from the community. In addition to the open house, meetings were held with the Downtown Kelowna Association, the Parks & Facilities Committee and the Downtown Implementation Committee to discuss the various pros and cons of various design options.

The final plan proposes the following:

1. The Plan accommodates the proposed alignment of a new Okanagan Lake Bridge and its east approach, including all restoration to City Park due to the new bridge and approach.
2. That the existing sportsfield will be saved by shifting it. This space will also be designed for multi-purpose use. This sportsfield may be lit in the future to accommodate field use in the fall and program needs.
3. That the erosion at the junction of Hot and Cold Sands Beach be rectified by filling the area and building a boardwalk similar to Waterfront Park subject to Federal, Provincial and Municipal approvals. This area will be designed to accommodate aquatics viewing and a swimmers dock within the swimming area will also be considered to enhance the aquatic opportunities. The provision of a plaza will allow the programming of the space for entertainment and other events.

4. During the peak season the promenade becomes very busy and congested. In order to improve use and safety a parallel asphalt path is proposed. This path will be for use by cyclists and in-line skaters. The Parks & Facilities Committee is also considering recommending allowing dogs on leash along the promenade between the Bridge and Rotary Marsh during the early opening hours of the park. This issue will be resolved as part of the proposed expansion of the Dogs in Park program through a 5-Year Plan requested by the Parks & Facilities Committee.
5. Parking issues also required resolution. Although providing parking within waterfront lands has always been frowned upon, additional parking is required and proposed along the re-aligned Harvey Avenue, where impact on the park will be minimal. In addition this will significantly enhance access for vehicles and equipment for special events planned in the park. The Transportation Manager asked Parks to consider Tour Bus parking. Although we initially planned to provide this type of parking, the Downtown Kelowna Association recommended against this, as it would have an impact on downtown merchants.
6. In order to enhance safety, lighting is proposed in the area bounded by the Rose Garden, Veendam Gardens, City Park Pavilion and along interior walkways.
7. Consideration was given to eliminate the tennis courts due to low usage and when major repairs were required. The Parks & Facilities Committee did not support this action and to enhance usability and safety, the courts are planned to be resurfaced and lit.
8. Although there was a request to consider reintroduction of the loop road through City Park, after consideration, this option was eliminated due to negative behaviour that resulted in the past. The Parks and Leisure Services Department and the Downtown Implementation Committee did not support the reintroduction of the loop road.
9. The Plan also proposes a major upgrade of the playground given that this is Kelowna's most highly used family park and a major tourist destination. Various playground components will be installed separating children based on age and a portion of the playground will be designed to accommodate the disabled.
10. The Master Plan originally proposed removal of the City Park Pavilion in the long term, and provision of a new building to accommodate a concession, washrooms, office space and stage or area to place a mobile stage. Although we are not recommending these improvements at this time, we are recommending the acquisition of a portable stage, which can be used throughout the City for a variety of programs, tournaments and festivals.
11. The Park & Facility Committee asked that future enhancements also consider the addition of gardens and mosiaculture. This request will be implemented in the area bounded by the Highway, Abbott Street, Cold Sands promenade and the area east of the Tennis Court, lawn bowling and pavilion.

Implementation of the plan is estimated to cost approximately \$4 million. Implementation will be accommodated within the 10 year Parks Capital Plan to ensure improvements are prioritized in relation to the entire Parks and Open Space System. However infrastructure improvements to stop erosion and the portable stage are envisioned as short-term requirements.

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Joe Creron  
Parks Manager

Cc Director of Parks and Leisure Services  
Director of Planning and Development Services  
Director of Finance and Corporate Services

Enclosure

