
CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 15, 2003
File No.: 5820-00
To: City Manager
From: Parks Manager
Subject: Proposed Beach Access Initiatives

RECOMMENDATION

THAT specific proactive and reactive initiatives be taken to prevent and reduce undesirable behavior at beach accesses:

AND THAT staff be authorized to undertake the beach access initiatives as outlined in the report dated April 15, 2003 from the Parks Manager.

BACKGROUND

Beach accesses, which are roads that terminate at Okanagan Lake, provide recreational opportunities to many citizens and visitors. The nature of some beach accesses also makes them conducive to behaviour that is disruptive, and undesirable. Unfortunately, such behaviour makes some beach accesses undesirable and, more importantly, unsafe for park users and adjacent residents at certain times of the day.

Possible reasons for such behavior at beach access locations include:

- Beach accesses are easily accessed from major roads.
- An abundance of beach access locations provide ample opportunity and selection to choose from.
- Some beach accesses are small and hidden areas that attract undesirable behaviour.
- Some are more prone to problems given their proximity to downtown.
- Because they can be areas where there is little evening activity, they do not tend to be self-policing at this time of day.

Solutions can be organized into three general categories; a) making the beach accesses less conducive to disruptive behaviour, b) increasing enforcement & security, and, c) making beach accesses less accessible at critical times of the day.

a) Making sites less conducive for disruptive behaviour

- Employing Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) standards (increasing visibility and reducing opportunities for concealment to make sites safe and more defensible)
- Encouraging more neighbourhood use and activity over longer periods of the day

b) Increasing enforcement and security by:

- Increased presence of private security.
- Increased Bylaw enforcement.
- Increased RCMP patrols, etc.

c) Making beach accesses less accessible at critical times of the day by:

- Fencing off and restricting pedestrian access to the beach area at night.
- Restricting parking on beach access roads at night to discourage non-local traffic.
- Using electronic gates to restrict / manage non-local vehicular access to roadways at night.

The purpose of the beach access initiatives is to provide a comprehensive approach to reducing disruptive behaviour and to insure public safety. Since all beach accesses are different in make-up or context, no single solution will meet the needs of all accesses. For this reason, the initiatives would not manage problems at beach accesses in a prescriptive manner that requires a uniform level of treatment to address the worst case scenario. Rather, the initiative provide sequentially increasing levels of intervention in response to specific site characteristics and specific levels and types of behaviour.

Joe Creron

Attach (1)

BEACH ACCESS INITIATIVES

A. Immediate and concurrent actions

- 1) That the Planning Department and the Crime Prevention Officer will deliver Public awareness programs to educate all property owners adjacent to beach access sites in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) guidelines that would make their properties safer and more defensible.
- 2) That Bylaw Enforcement and the RCMP assist local residents to organize and establish a "Beach Access Watch Program" modeled after the successful Neighbourhood Watch Program.
- 3) That the City's Bylaw Enforcement and the RCMP increase their presence and enforcement in the vicinity of beach accesses to provide a stronger deterrent to disruptive behaviour.
- 4) That the Works and Utilities Department assess street lighting levels along beach access roads and prepare budgets to undertake appropriate action in keeping with CPTED guidelines.
- 5) That the Parks Division employ CPTED guidelines that are permissible in riparian areas. This would include establishing a budget for additional security lighting and the posting of signs that list the Park Security phone number.

B. Subsequent action to be sequentially undertaken only if behaviour persists

- 6) If disruptive or illegal behaviour at any beach access is deemed to be a problem, and that after consultation with owners living along the beach access road, on-street parking be restricted between the hours of 10:00pm and 6:00am on beach access roads.
- 7) If, subsequent to implementing Initiative 6, behaviour continues to compromise the safety and security of adjacent owners, Parks Division will install a fence at the defined end of the road before the beach. The purpose of the fence would be to restrict pedestrian access to the beach between the hours of 10:00pm and 6:00am. Installation of the fence would be subject to budget approval and consultation with residents within 2 blocks of the beach access.