

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 4, 2008
File No.: 0760-20
To: City Manager
From: Youth Advisory Committee
Subject: Final Report on the Mayor's Youth Forum on Parks and Open Spaces

Prepared by: JW Reid Oddleifson, Development Manager
Carla Stephens, Parks Communications and Administration Supervisor

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receive the final report from the Mayor's Youth Forum on Parks and Open Space held November 23, 2007 as attached to the report from the Youth Advisory Committee dated March 4, 2008;

AND THAT Council direct staff to distribute the final report to:

- o Central Okanagan Regional District Board for further distribution to the Regional Parks Committee,
- o School District #23 Board for further distribution to participating high schools, and
- o City Departments for further distribution to the RPCS Master Plan work team;

AND THAT preparation of the Recreation, Parks and Culture Master Plan consider this information;

AND FURTHER THAT this final report be placed in the quick links section of the City's home web site page.

BACKGROUND:

The Mayor's Youth Forum on Parks and Open Space was held on November 23 2007. Council received a verbal presentation on December 10 2007, and notice that the full written report would be presented later.

The Youth Advisory Committee are recommending a wide distribution of this final report to appropriate agencies, committees and staff so that the input from youth concerning these issues can be considered in the development of policies, strategic plans and budget priorities.

The fourth City of Kelowna Mayor's Youth Forum was held on November 23rd, 2007 with a focus on civic park planning from a youths' perspective. The pre-forum research and the one day event gathered important insights about the likes and dislikes of high-school aged youth

regarding the parks that they frequent. It also got youth experiencing park planning and considering the challenges of park planning in a rapidly growing city.

Two separate research activities took place in advance of the one day forum;

1. A study was completed by 19 pairs of youth to monitor and report on park activities in their immediate neighborhood. This provided empirical data "close to home" by youth impacted by the quality of the parks they regularly frequent.
2. The on-line survey tool was designed to quickly capture current park usage trends as well as student feedback on park planning and facilities from a youth perspective. There were 527 responses to the survey (83% from Kelowna and 17% from the Westside) from a population of about 6,300 secondary school students.

A total of 76 students, from all seven secondary schools in the Kelowna area participated in the preparation of the forum. They also participated in the one day forum held at School District #23 Hollywood Education Center. The agenda for the forum included:

- presentations from City representatives on park planning issues,
- feedback on the student on-line survey and youth discussion of park planning issues and collection of their idea,
- a tour of the Mission Recreation Park, which included a brief explanation of park planning consideration and a tree planting exercise,
- a planning exercise with professional planners that used four real park-areas.

Outcomes:

The Youth Forum provided the Parks division with the opportunity to:

1. Receive direct input from youth via the on-line survey,
2. Educate youth on the importance of our urban forest, challenges facing our urban forest and input on how best to encourage private citizens to plant trees. In addition students planted 375 trees and shrubs helping to enhance Mission Recreation Park,
3. Engage youth in local government through a planning design charette which led to a greater understanding of how youth can get involved now and in the future.

Beach Parks - The survey reinforced the important role beach parks play for youth and the need to provide appropriate spaces for informal gatherings. The City will need to continue looking at ways to increase the amount of beach parks to ensure future needs are met. The data also speaks to the need to provide appropriate space for unstructured activities such as volleyball:

- The most popular recreation activity for this age group is beach activities (78%) followed closely by hanging out (73 %),
- The most popular park for this age group was Mission Creek Greenway (32%) followed by City Park (31%). Gyro Park (17%) was the third most popular park,
- The top three things youth enjoyed about their favourite parks was:
 - Place to hang out (28%)
 - Place to relax (22%)
 - Place to exercise (22%)
- The top three things youth like about Kelowna parks include:
 - Access to Okanagan Lake (68%)
 - Green Space (60%)
 - Recreational Opportunities (42%).

Safety and Security - The level of public confidence for safe usage of City parks needs to be increased for youth and other age groups. The Parks division is continuing to work closely with private security companies, Downtown Kelowna Association, Bylaw and the RCMP to try and address issues in parks and at beach accesses as they arise. The ability for the RCMP and Bylaw Enforcement to respond must be balanced with the needs of the rest of the community:

- The number one barrier cited for not using parks was concern for safety (42%) followed by lack of motivation (12 %).

Marketing and Communication - Parks division will continue to use a variety of mediums to reach youth; a main objective is to provide a relevant web based data base for the public to search where specific types of activities such as beach volleyball are offered and where parks are located. This will be brought forward as a budget item in the next fiscal budget:

- The number one way youth would like to find out about Parks is the newspaper (62%) followed by the city's website (48%). Information they would like to receive includes Parks special events (64%), where specific activities are available (62%), type and location of parks (49%) and information about future parks (44 %).

Planning - The information below will be considered when planning for future park initiatives. The Youth Forum Survey information was forwarded to the consultant developing the Recreation, Parks and Cultural Services Master Plan:

- The 51% of respondents felt the City was doing a good to excellent job of meeting the needs of youth; four ways to improve parks for youth include providing more sport structures (25%), have cleaner parks and facilities (18%), provide more activities for youth (16 %) and have better security (14%).

Design Charette - Students were asked to design their ideal park; however they were given a number of parameters including budget, community needs and environmental requirements. Students were divided into six teams; each team was assisted by a professional planner:

- The four sites were Central Green, Gyro Beach expansion, Mission Recreation Park and Rutland Town Centre. The parameters varied depending on the site however all teams were asked to consider water conservation, percentage of pervious to non-pervious surface, safety and parking.
- The exercise proved to be the most popular portion of the day for youth; it gave them in opportunity to take what they learned in the morning, including the feedback they had provided through the on-line survey, and develop a park for youth. They gained a good understanding and appreciation of the complexity in the park planning process. It is anticipated that this greater understanding will continue to provide a benefit as youth engage in the public process.

INTERNAL CIRCULATION TO:

Director of Recreation Parks and Cultural Services
Parks Manager
Parks Communications and Administration Supervisor

FINANCIAL/BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS:

City Council has approved an annual budget of \$25,000; \$5,000 of which is funded from community contributions, to produce two Youth Forums per year.

Considerations that were not applicable to this report:

Legal/statutory authority:

Legal/statutory procedural requirements:

Existing policy:

Personnel implications:

Technical requirements:

External agency/public comments:

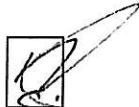
Alternate recommendation:

Submitted by:



JWR Oddleifson
Development manager
Recreation Parks and Cultural Services

Approved for Inclusion:



Attachment

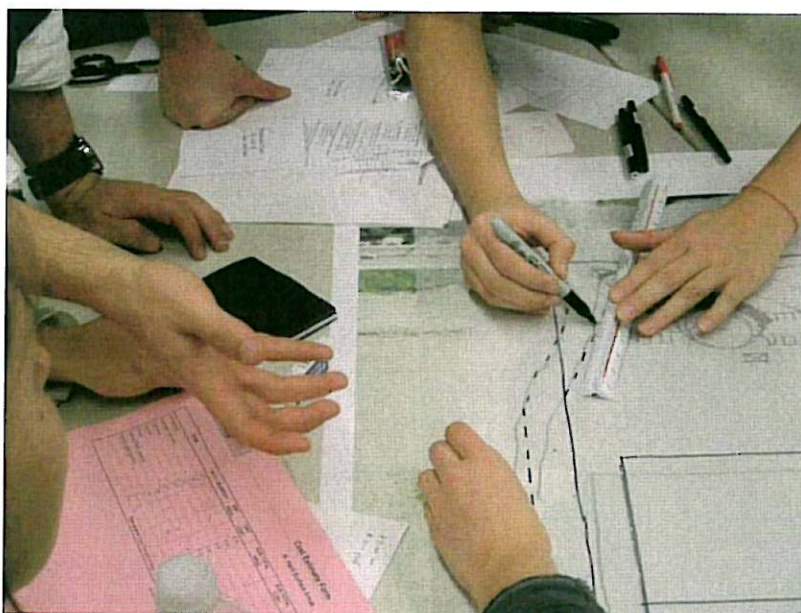
Cc: Director of Recreation parks and Cultural Services
Parks Manager
Parks Communications and Administration Supervisor



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Report on Mayor's Youth Forum of November, 2007

Fall 2007



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KELOWNA YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Report on Mayor's Youth Forum of November, 2007

SUMMARY

The fourth City of Kelowna Mayor's Youth Forum was held on November 23rd, 2007 with a focus on civic park planning from a youths' perspective. The pre-forum research and the one day event gathered important insights about the likes and dislikes of high-school aged youth regarding the parks that they frequent. It also got youth experiencing park planning and considering the challenges of park planning on a rapidly growing city.

One of the consistent results from the study was that casual gatherings or individual activities are more popular uses of parks for youth than events or organized sports. The two most popular parks are: Mission Greenway and City Park, followed by: Gyro, Ben Lee and Okanagan Mountain Park.

Only one half of youth think that the City (and the Regional District) are doing a "good" to "excellent" job of meeting the needs of youth. The most popular areas of satisfaction include: "Opportunities for activities and the diversity of parks" (e.g. beach activities, biking, running, water park, playground, skateboard parks, basketball, soccer fields, tennis courts, swimming, volleyball, and ice rinks).

The most popular suggestions for improvements were "More structures to practice sports activities" (e.g. beaches, swimming, basketball courts, trails, volleyball nets, soccer fields, playgrounds, jumps/ramps for free boarding, skateboard, tennis courts, hockey boxes, basketball, baseball, badminton, jungle gyms, a snowboard park for the winter).

The most frequently mentioned detractor of the park experience now and greatest threat to future park visitation was safety and cleanliness. Safety issues were specifically focussed on exposure to drugs and alcohol, homeless populations and intimidation by police and other adults. A planning-related concern was the negative impact of the growing population and availability of land for green space.

Youth want parks and green spaces, however their needs are not being fully met. They want to know that parks are safe (this includes adding safety features, like more lighting) and that they will enjoy themselves there. They want to be able to enjoy individual sport activities (like swimming, skateboarding) and organized/team sports (like soccer, basketball and hockey).

The overwhelming response from the participating youth was that the forum was a valuable exercise and meaningful to their understanding of civic planning and urban growth challenges.

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Report on Mayor's Youth Forum of November, 2007

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Mayor's Youth Forums is to solicit information and ideas from local youth (grades 10 through 12) on civic and social planning issues. In the past, the Mayor's Youth Forums have addressed: garbage collection and disposal, transportation and youth social issues (drug use, family issues, etc.). This fourth youth forum is specifically focused on public park planning from a youths' perspective.

The first challenge with this forum was how to collect useful, relevant planning ideas from a population that is likely to be mostly uninformed about the topic of park planning. The second challenge was how to design a process that quite quickly allows youth to participate and provide planning information that would have some value to professional planners who are working on these issues daily.

METHODOLOGY

Parks Log

A part of the pre-forum research was a small study completed by 19 pairs of youth to monitor and report on park activities in their immediate neighborhood (within a 2.5 kilometer radius of their home). This information was designed to provide empirical data "close to home" by youth impacted by the quality of the parks they regularly frequent. A complete summary of the Parks Logs is presented in the Appendices.

On line survey

The on-line survey tool was designed to quickly capture current park usage trends as well as student feedback on park planning and facilities from a youth perspective. There were 527 responses to the survey from a population of about 6,300 secondary school students. The main results from the survey are reported in this report, a complete summary of the survey results is contained in the Appendices.



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One-day Forum

A total of 67 students, from all seven secondary schools in the Kelowna area participated in the preparation of the forum. And 54 students (representing all secondary schools) participated in the one day forum held at School District #23 Hollywood Education Center on November 23, 2007. The agenda for the forum included:

1. presentations from City representatives on park planning issues
2. feedback on the student on-line survey and youth discussion of park planning issues and collection of their idea (see "Findings" below)
3. a tour of the Mission Recreation Park, which included a brief explanation of park planning consideration and a tree planting exercise
4. a planning exercise with professional planners that used four real park-areas (including one area that is a potential park) in Kelowna as the examples



Presentation to Mayor and Council

On December the 10th a group of youth representatives and consultant Linda Abbott-Simons presented the preliminary results of the Forum exercise to Mayor and Council.



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Forum Sponsors:

- City of Kelowna
- Fortis BC
- School District #23
- Big White Ski Resort
- Mountain Surf Freeride
- Little Caesar Pizza
- BroSista Clothing Co.
- A & B Sound
- Hanna's Lounge & Grill

City and other Representatives:

- Mayor Shepherd, Mayor, City of Kelowna
- Michele Rule, Councilor, City of Kelowna
- Reid Oddleifson, Development Manager, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Services, City of Kelowna
- Carla Stephens, Parks Communications and Administration Supervisor, Parks Division, City of Kelowna
- Andrew Gibbs, Park Design & Construction Supervisor, Parks Division, City of Kelowna

Observers:

- Murray Kopp, Assistant Director Parks & Recreation, Regional District Central Okanagan
- Jody Foster-Sexsmith, Community Relations Supervisor, Regional District Central Okanagan

Professional Planners:

- Pat McCormick, Planner, City of Kelowna
- Barb Davidson, Planner, City of Kelowna
- Terry Barton, Planner, City of Kelowna
- Liz Balderston, Planner, Urban Systems
- Terry Klassen, Planner, Stantec
- David James, Planner, Site 360
- Fiona Chamberlain, Planner, Outland Design



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Youth Representatives:

	Participation prior to the Forum	Participation at the Forum
Immaculata Regional High School	11	8
Kelowna Christian School (KCS)	9	8
Okanagan Mission Secondary School (OKM)	15	12
Kelowna Secondary School (KSS)	13	11
Mt. Boucherie Secondary School	5	4
George Elliot Secondary School	6	4
Rutland Secondary School	8	7
Totals	67	54

School representatives:

- Linnea Hamilton - teacher, Rutland Senior Secondary School
- Katie Wilson - teacher, Okanagan Mission Secondary School
- Shelley Nicholl - School Trustee, School District #23
- Wayne Horning - School District #23 Trustee



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FINDINGS FROM ON LINE SURVEY

The on-line survey was completed in October, 2007 by 527 students with representation from all seven high schools in the Central Okanagan. High School participation ranged from 14 respondents at George Elliot High School to a high of 223 respondents from Kelowna Secondary School. Twenty-one questions were asked relating to current use of parks areas, satisfaction of park areas and suggestions for the future park designs.

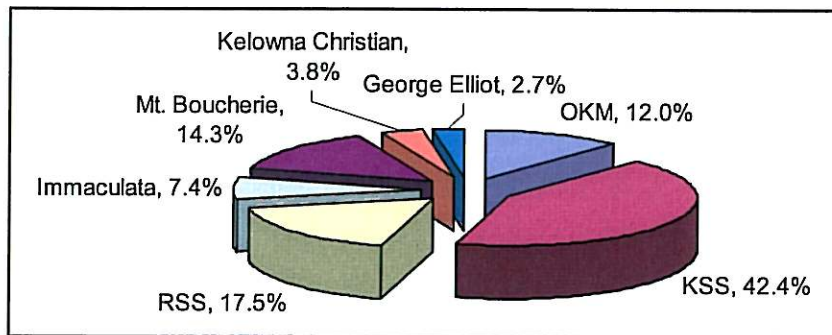


Figure 1: School participation in on-line survey

1. What are your top 5 outdoor recreation activities?

The variety of park activities enjoyed by youth includes everything from swimming to slopitch baseball. Participation rates are high for a wide variety of sports (40-75% of respondents enjoyed a sport in local parks) with at least 10 major sport-type groupings getting the majority of responses.

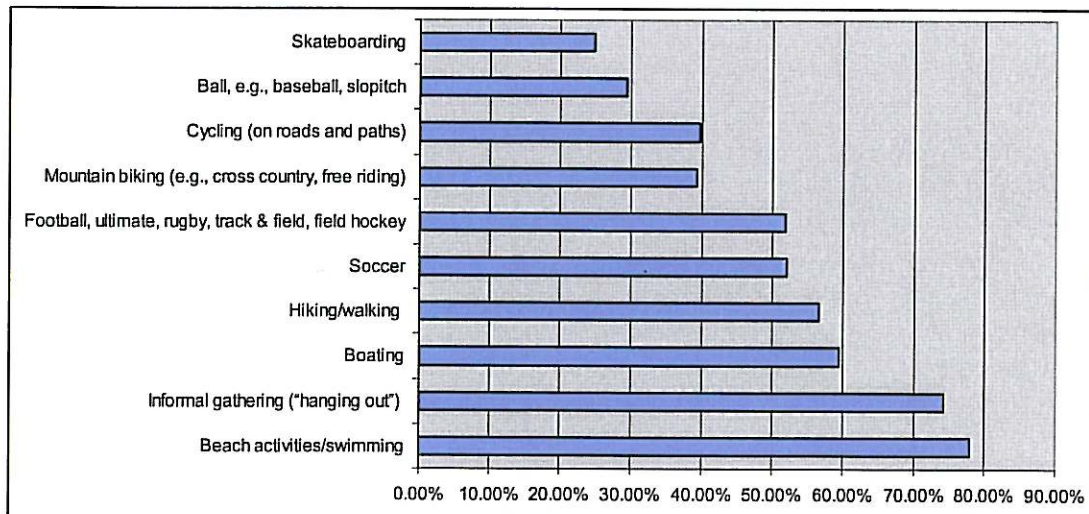


Figure 2: Most popular recreation activities in parks

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2. What City parks/trails do you visit most often?

The main parks and trails used (these results do not indicate park use for organized sport activities) are: Mission Creek Greenway, City Park, Gyro, Ben Lee and Okanagan Mountain Park (in order of popularity). There were 21 other parks or recreation areas mentioned - each of these was chosen by less than 2% of respondents (note that the majority of respondents were from Kelowna Senior Secondary).

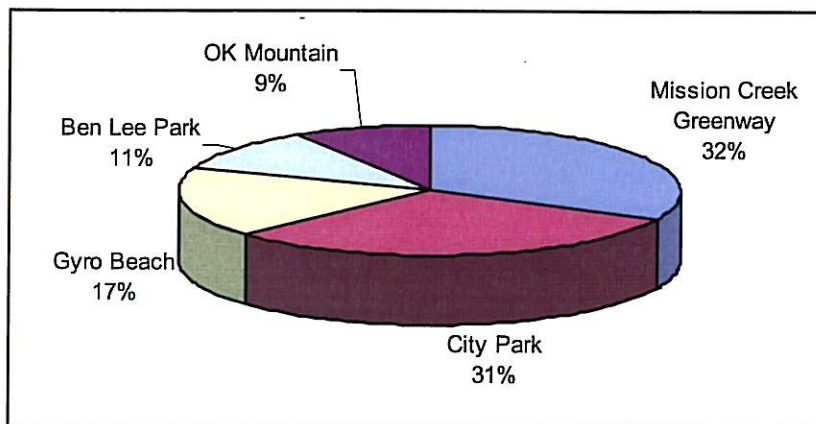


Figure 3: City parks most often frequented

3. How often do you visit the park you go to most often?

About on half of youth frequent parks weekly or more often, while the remainder use the parks one to three times per month.

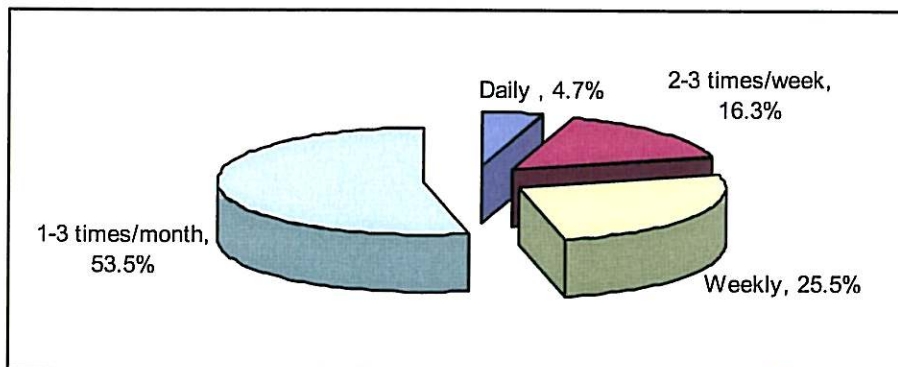


Figure 4: Frequency of visitation

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4. What attracts you to the parks you frequent?

The most popular attraction for local parks was being able to be with friends (63.7%), and not necessarily involved in organized sports. Other popular reasons were: close proximity to home, green space, the venue is clean and it's safe.

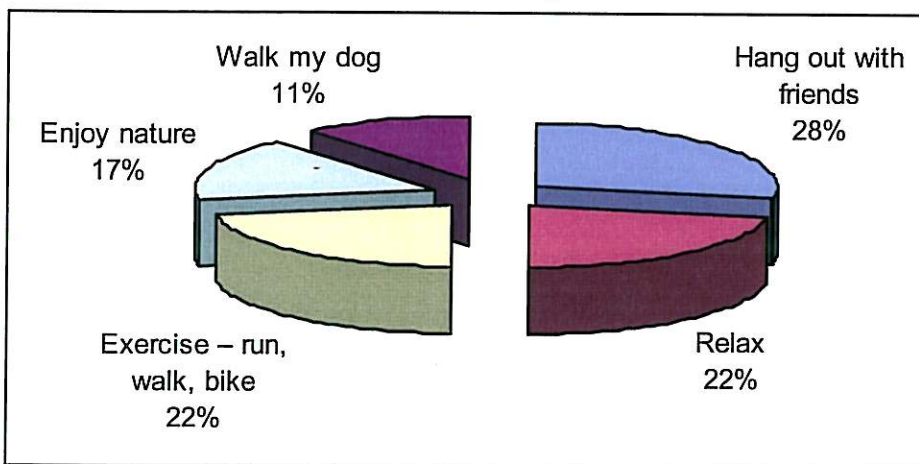


Figure 5: Attraction of favourite parks

5. Other than organized sports, what are the main reasons you use city parks?

The vast majority of youth (50%) are using parks for social contact (with friends, relaxing, etc). The next groups in size are using parks for exercise.

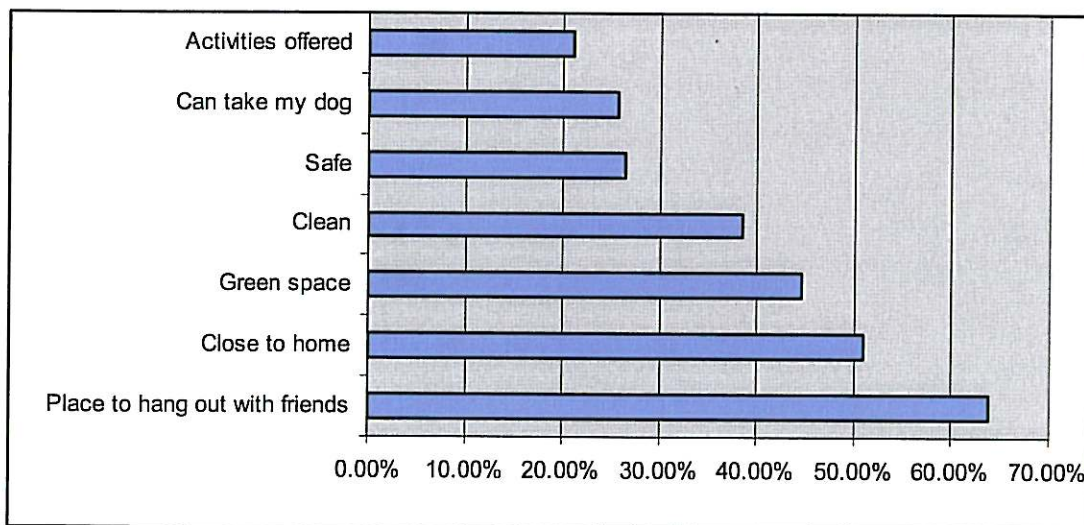


Figure 6: Favourite uses of City Parks

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6. What three things do you like about City parks?

The most attractive features for youth when thinking about City parks are the access to the lake and green space. The top seven choices, in order of preference, are:

- Access to Okanagan Lake
- Green space
- Provide recreational opportunities
- Cleanliness
- Provide opportunities to enjoy nature
- The are safe
- Diversity of park offerings

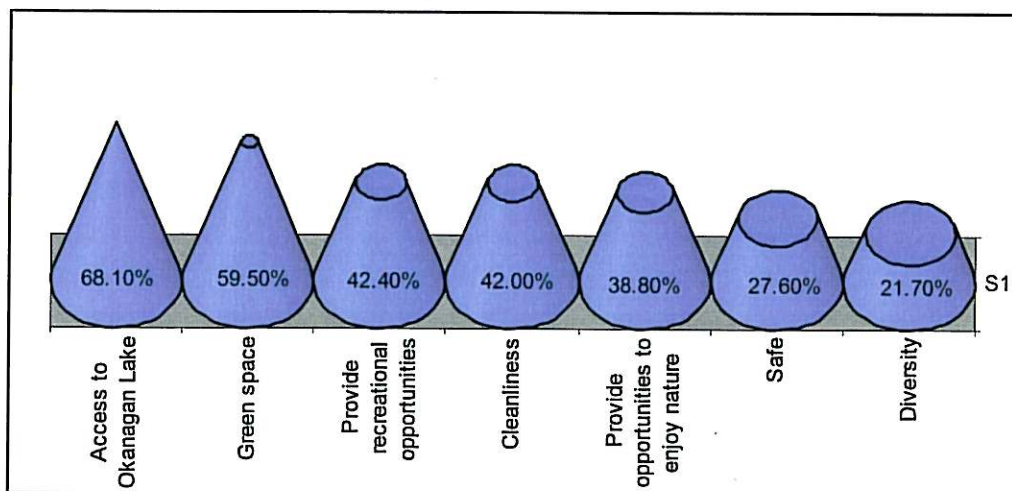


Figure 7: Top attractions of City Parks

"It's important to speak out in your community." Youth Participant

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7. How well do you think Kelowna is meeting the needs of youth in parks?

Only one half of youth (51.1%) think that the City (and the Regional District) are doing a "good" to "Excellent" job of meeting the needs of youth.

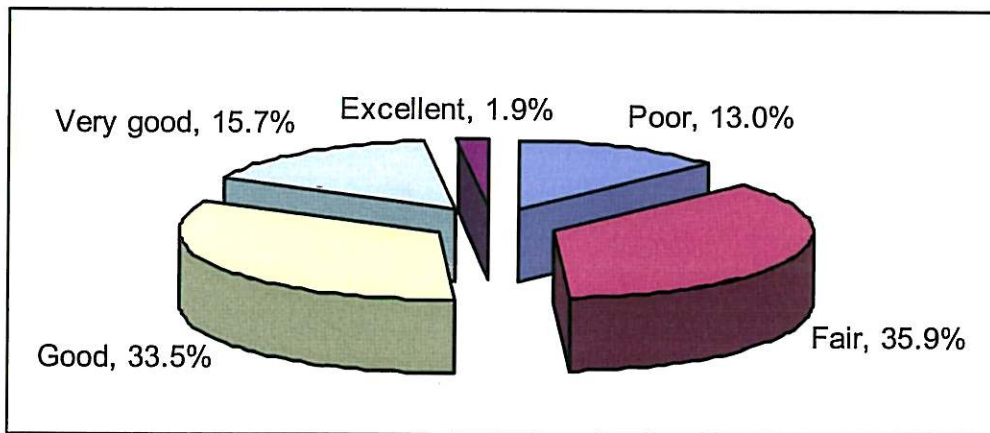


Figure 8: Rating of park services

8. If they are meeting the needs of youth: how are they doing this?

A total of 234 youth provided comments on how the City *is meeting the needs of youth*. The most popular acknowledgement (25%) pointed to "Opportunities for activities and the diversity of parks". These benefits included: beach, biking, running, water park, playground, skateboard parks, basketball, soccer fields, tennis courts, swimming, volleyball, and ice rinks.

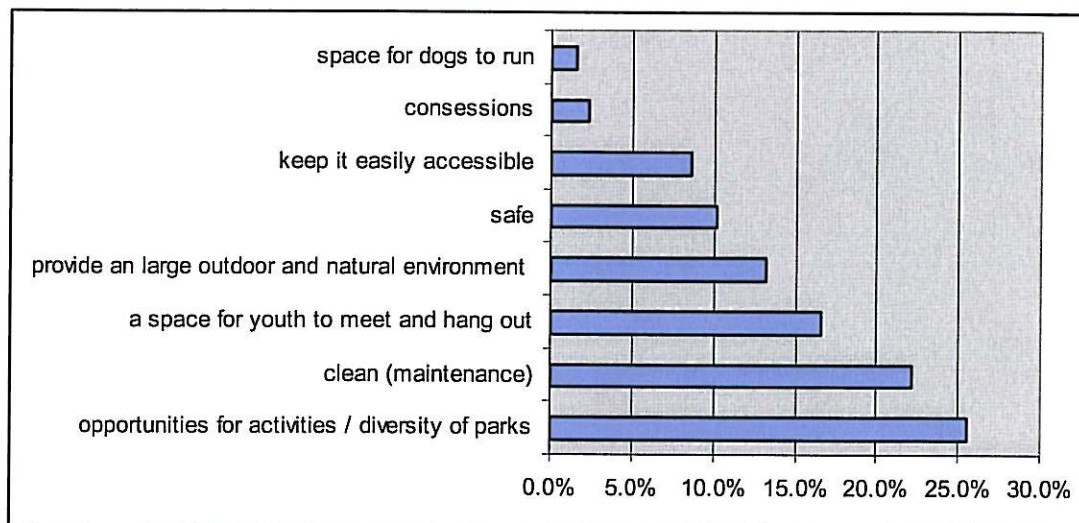


Figure 9: How parks do meet needs of youth

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9. What could the City do to better meet the needs of youth in parks?

A total of 252 responses offered suggestions as to how the City *could better meet the needs and desires of the local youth population*. The most popular suggestion (25%) was **"More structures to practice sports activities"**, which included: beaches, swimming, basketball courts, trails, volleyball nets, soccer fields, playgrounds, jumps/ramps for free boarding, skateboard, tennis courts, hockey boxes, basketball, baseball, badminton, jungle gyms, a snowboard park for the winter.

It should be noted that security, safety, homeless people and drug use in parks were frequently mentioned as detractors to the enjoyment of parks.

More structures to practice sports activities	25.1%
Cleaner parks and facilities	18.4%
More activities for the youth and teenagers	15.7%
Better security (drug issues)	14.1%
Homeless people issues	8.2%
More animal friendly	4.3%
Bikes parks	3.5%
Make more parks to protect the green areas of Kelowna	2.7%
More public events (concerts, dance, "Fun Day"...)	2.0%
Less distance to travel	1.6%
Larger and more parks	1.6%
Bring Wakefest back	1.6%
Less houses around parks	0.8%
Food	0.4%

Figure 10: What the youth want in parks

A note on park cleanliness and safety: These results show that the youth surveyed consider the local parks they frequent to be both clean (22%) and safe (11%) and needing to be even cleaner (18%) and safer (14%). This is not unusual: our interpretation of these results is that youth appreciate the current effort to make parks clean and safe *and* they think more can be done.

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10. In your opinion, what is the most important issue related to parks & recreation facing Kelowna over the next few years?

There were 467 responses suggesting a wide range of important issues related to parks and recreation facing Kelowna in the near future. The most popular entries represented a common theme in the survey: safety, cleanliness, and homeless people. The addition here is the concern about increased populations and the impact of building construction creating possible land constraints.

Cleanliness and pollution	18.8%
Drugs and alcohol	16.5%
Problems linked with increase of population and building construction	13.1%
Safety in general	12.0%
Homeless people	11.2%
Trees and the pine beetle	7.2%
Litter	6.1%
Keep peoples interested in parks	4.6%
More structures and facilities to practice sports activities: dirt jump, soccer, rides, paintball, hockey box, mountain bikes, snowboards	4.2%
Water and land conservation (nature)	2.5%
Bringing Wakefest back	1.9%
More and bigger parks	1.5%
lack government support	0.4%

Figure 11: Greatest issues in the future for local parks

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11. In your opinion what are the biggest barriers preventing youth from using parks and recreation facilities more often?

Of the five potential "Barriers preventing youth from using parks" provided the most important to youth is safety. Safety includes both tangible issues, like homeless people and drug use in parks, as well as parents' perceptions of safety. This was followed by motivation of youth to access the parks, parks not being welcoming (due to adult influences), a lack of activities and access/transportation issues.

#1 SAFETY: 41.9%

- Homeless people, Drug users, safe sand, parent's perception of safety

#2 MOTIVATION: 11.8%

- youth not interested in using a park/hanging out outside (rather be on computer)

#3 UNWELCOME: 9.7%

- police presence, judgments from adults, rules

#4 BORED: 9.7%

- lack of things to do there (rails, jumps, basketball, water slides, kayaks)

#5 ACCESS: 6.5%

- transportation and getting there

Other comments provided relating to barriers to youth using parks:

- We are too busy (e.g. school work and sports) 4.3%
- Access for dogs 3.2%
- No designated areas for youth 3.2%
- Early closing times/lack of lights 2.2%
- Teenagers that are out of control (drunk), drugs 3.2%
- Houses around fields, houses with glass everywhere 2.2%
- Beaches and parks that are inaccessible, gates 2.2%

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12. What type of youth parks, recreation facilities or activities would you like to see in Kelowna?

The most popular request for youth-centric recreation facilities or activities (indicated by #1), at 21.2% of responses, was for venues that cater more to individual sports (Skateboard park, Bike park, trails for hiking, and dirt biking). This was followed (#2 at 20.5%) with requests for venues for organized sports (sports fields, Basketball, Volleyball, Tennis and hockey/skating). And the third most popular request (#3 = 13.2%) was for by indoor water-sports (water park, slides, pools). See below for other, less popular suggestions.

		Individual sports	Team sports	Water structures
Water parks, slides & pools - 3	13.2%			13.2%
Sports fields(soccer/football/baseball/softball) - 2	7.8%		7.8%	
Skateboard park - 1	7.6%	7.6%		
Bike parks (Mtn. biking, biking trails) - 1	5.9%	5.9%		
Trails, hiking - 1	5.4%	5.4%		
Amusement park	4.1%			
Playground equipment - Big	3.7%			
Basketball courts - 2	3.4%		3.4%	
Dog parks	3.4%			
Volleyball (beach & outdoor) - 2	3.2%		3.2%	
Beach parks & boardwalk	3.2%			
Green space	2.9%			
Place to hang out (gazebo, picnic tables)	2.7%			
Road Hockey - 2	2.4%		2.4%	
Dirt biking - 1	2.4%	2.4%		
Concerts	2.2%			
Tennis Courts (indoor & outdoor) - 2	2.2%		2.2%	
Concession	2.0%			
Wakefest	1.7%			
Hockey/skating- ice (outdoor & indoor) - 2	1.5%		1.5%	
		21.2%	20.5%	13.2%

Figure 12: Preferred Park venues

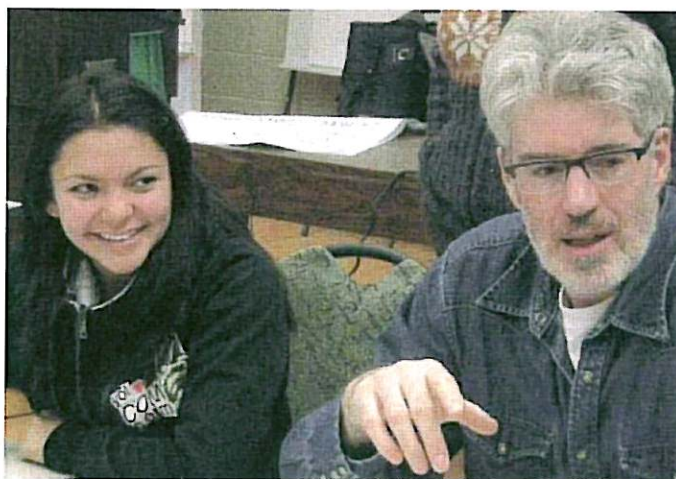
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Other suggestions (with 5 or fewer votes, listed in descending order of popularity):

- waterskiing/wakeboarding
- Rock climbing
- Snowboard park
- Paintball
- Running tracks
- Skim board park
- Recreation Centre
- Light shows
- Movies/plays under the stars
- Environmental learning centre
- Go karts
- Kayak fest
- Surf machine
- Beach access
- Cycling track
- Arcade
- Badminton
- Cable park
- Graffiti wall
- Ponds
- Internet
- Radio controlled car track
- Racquet ball courts
- Wildlife areas/sanctuaries
- Washrooms
- Shooting range
- Equipment rentals
- Roller disco/skate
- Benches
- Youth only park
- Adventure park
- Skating rinks (outdoor)
- Lacrosse boxes
- Star watching dome
- Pool tables
- Powered motor sports
- ATV park (4 wheels)
- Picnic areas
- Yoga classes

13.



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What information about parks would be useful to youth?

Special events in parks	64%
Where specific activities are available i.e. beach volleyball, tennis	62%
Type and location of parks	49%
Future parks	44%
Allowed uses in various parks i.e. off-leash dogs	38%
Current park projects	26%
Swimming advisories	25%
Tips on keeping parks clean and safe	25%
Volunteer opportunities	25%
Park rules	23%

Figure 13: Information about parks useful to youth

14. How would you like to receive information about Parks?

The most popular request for advertising medium was the newspaper (local paper), this was followed by the City web site and recreation guide.

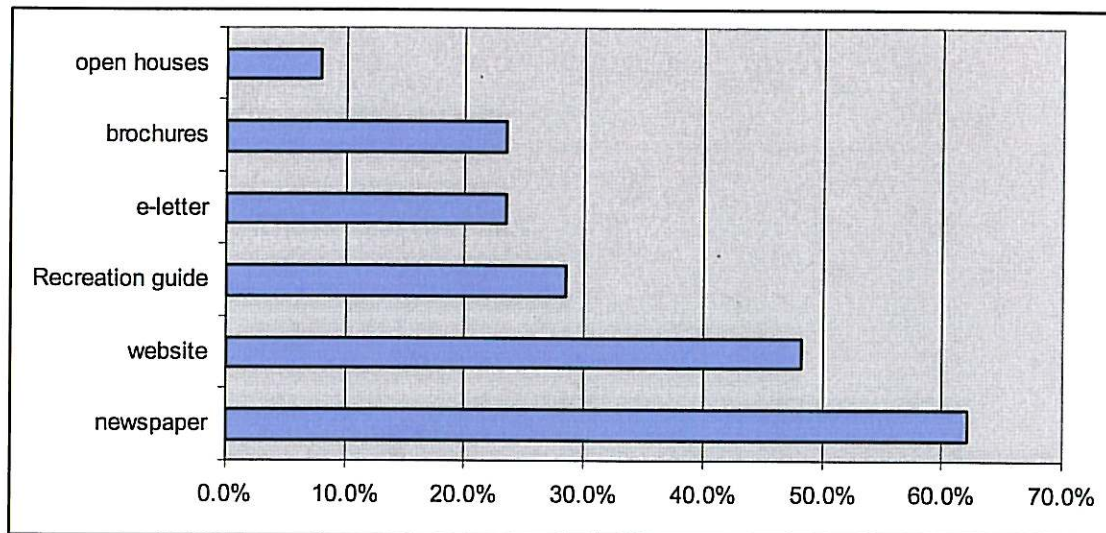


Figure 14: Preferred medium for advertising Parks

Other suggested advertising mediums (listed in order of popularity) are:

- Posters (including signs announcing new parks) 9
- T.V., radio advertisement, news 9
- information sessions in schools 8
- Facebook, Castenet 4
- Mail 3

Feedback on Safety, Vandalism and Marketing

The following is summary of discussion notes from the Youth Forum on Safety, Vandalism and Marketing

What would make parks safer for your age group? (listed in order of frequency)

- Lighting (7)
- Security people/camera (4)
- Direct phone lines (2)
- Gates
- Night Activities
- Out reach programs
- Less/no car access at night
- Cleaner washrooms
- Signs depicting fines
- Youth awareness



What would reduce vandalism? (listed in order of frequency)

- Community art work and murals (6)
- Harsher punishment for graffiti/post fines (2)
- Remove visible garbage and recycling
- Close to police stations
- Keep parks away from "hangout" e.g., 7-11
- Security
- Direct phone lines
- Less surface area
- Cameras
- Volunteer groups

"Park space is more available than I thought." Youth Participant

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How would you market parks to your age group? (listed in order of frequency)

- Radio, newspaper, TV (6)
- Facebook, Youtube, MySpace etc (6)
- Host events: (6)
 - Corporate sponsored programs/competition e.g., movies in park
 - Community Events e.g., volleyball, concerts, open mike, BBQ and art shows
 - Youth orientated themes every weekend e.g., Bertram
- Signs, flyers and newspapers e.g., at schools, coffee shops, etc. (2)
- School [word of mouth leadership]
- Bright coloured parks - artists [interesting to look at]
- Intelligent advertising

"I had no idea how much money and effort went into them." Youth Participant



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The Parks Log - Findings

The following is a summary of the records from the logs completed in October/November 2007 by 19 pairs of students (see the Appendices for complete details of the findings):

- ▶ About a third of youth do frequent the City's park information resources (web site, etc.)
- ▶ Favourite activities are unstructured games and social time with friends.

"My parents would like an improvement of the Greenway"

- ▶ Detractors from their experience include: homeless people/drug users, garbage, scat from geese, and a lack of physical play structures.
- ▶ Other than being close to the lake, favourite park features include: playground, open grass areas, concessions, swings, soccer field and keeping the park clean and safe.
- ▶ About one third of youth frequent parks outside the 2.5 kilometer radius of their home. Favourite destinations are City Park and Gyro Park. Other than the park not being appealing (e.g. it doesn't offer enough activities, or it too small), frequently mentioned barriers to accessing parks further from home are: transportation, opening hours, not knowing about other parks, and overcrowding in the summer.

Graffiti was the most commonly mentioned vandalism, followed by litter and damage to washrooms.

"We should put more money into parks"

- ▶ Suggested improvements to parks included: improved washroom facilities, better playground structures, longer opening hours, more garbage receptacles, better maintenance, more water fountains, and better security.
- ▶ Suggested strategies for marketing to youth included: advertising, organized events (e.g. BBQ's, concerts and sports tournaments), improved playground structures, improved maintenance and more police presence.

"...would do it (replant trees) anyways without an incentive.."

"We would not plant more trees in our backyard because of fire hazard"

- ▶ Parent opinions: the majority of parents agree on the importance of parks and would financially support creating "ideal" parks.

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“What kind of incentive would encourage your family to replace the tree canopy? Answer: None we have too many trees already”

- ▶ Parent opinions: one half of the parent's that were asked would support the replacement of trees lost to Pine Beetle on their property. Of those, the suggested incentives included: discounts on the trees and make it a community event.

“They believe the park idea (your ideal park) is superb. They would contribute tax payer dollars to it”



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APPENDICES



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Park Review Log Book Exercise

Where did you locate your park information?

- Personal knowledge / At the Park (11)
- Website (Kelowna park list + Map Quest) (7)

How was the process in finding the parks information?

- Quick and Easy (17)
- Time consuming- relatively easy (2)

What is the best park experience you've ever had / what made it that way?

- Activities with friends: (grounders, Frisbee, volleyball, soccer game, catch (5)/ the company of friends (3) open space and easy access (5)
- Enjoy the nature (sitting on the docks, under a tree, walking, picnic. etc.) (3) / Nature and calm
- Childhood games (elementary school experiences) (2) / meet new friends + playing games
- Playing with my dog (2)

What was your worst park experience you've ever had / what made it that way?

- Homeless people / drug users in the park (4)
- Garbage in the park (4)
- Goose poop (2)
- Not enough structures/ activities (2)
- No lights at night (afraid)
- Graffiti + vandalism
- No water fountains or washrooms (had to walk a lot)
- None (5)

Describe your ideal youth park?

- Playground (8)
- Near the beach/lake (6)
- Open grass area (5)

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- Concession (4)
- Easily accessible (4)
- Swings (3)
- Soccer field (3)
- constant upkeep (clean and safe) (3)
- Downtown (2)
- Nature and wild life (2)
- Beach Volleyball
- Slides, benches and tables
- Skateboard/rollerblade park
- Ice skating
- Areas for outdoor concerts

Do you visit a park outside your 2.5k radius on a regular basis?

- No (14)
- Yes (5)

If so, where and how do you get there ?

- City park + Gyro beach+ Big white+ etc. / by car (4, biking (3), walk (2)
- After school, week end, summer time(3)

What if any barriers do you feel would prevent youth from using the park ?

- Doesn't offer enough (too small, too old for the activities/playground) (5)
- Distance / transportation (3)
- Opening and closing time (3)
- Overcrowded during the summer (2)
- Know where it is / information on parks (2)
- The 'no dogs' rule
- Drugs/ alcohol issue in the park
- Vandalize issue
- Lack of signs

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Was there any vandalism in the park and if so what?

- Some graffiti (20)
- Litter (8)
- Washrooms (4)

Any suggestion of improvement to this park ?

- Improve the washrooms facilities (8)
- Better playground structures (construction or reparation) (6)
- Close the park later (5)
- Add garbage cans (4)
- Better maintenance (4)
- Public water fountain (4)
- Better security (3)
- Better signs for the park / more noticeable (3)
- Add benches and tables (3)
- Increase places for parking
- Crosswalk across the road

How could the city of Kelowna encourage more usage of this park?

- Advertising, commercials /promotion/ flyers (9)
- Organization of events (BBQ, concerts, sports tournament, etc.) (5)
- Improve playgrounds and structures (4)
- Better maintenance of the park (2)
- Stronger police presence (2)

What's the demographics around the park?

- Family (28)
- Youth (15)
- All ages (12)
- Seniors (8)
- Adults (5)
- Sport teams (3)

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What are the feelings of your parents about your ideal park?

- Agree on the importance of the parks/ would invest money in this kind of project (25)
- Don't really approve the idea and wouldn't invest money in the park issue (3)

What kind of incentives would encourage you to help replace the tree canopy by planting more trees in your backyard ?

- Would support it (9):
 - Discount (5)
 - Do it by themselves without incentives (2)
 - Make it being a community event (2)
- Would not support it (9):
 - No area available or backyard already full of trees (5)
 - If the government provided the trees (2)
 - Nothing can convince them (2)

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Youth Forum Agenda

8:30-9:00	Welcome desk and registration desk open Name tags handed out as youth and guests arrive
9:00-9:10	Opening of forum - Hugh Culver Welcoming speech - Mayor Sharon Shepherd
9:10- 9:30	Speaker - Carla Stephens - City Parks dept.
9:30-10:00	Break out session -7 small mixed groups (2 questions)
10:00-10:10	Morning Break
10:10-10:40	Review of information from break out session
10:40-11:25	Marketing - group discussion. What & how can we implement and market to youth?
11:25-11:55	Pizza Lunch
11:55-12:20	Travel to Mission Recreation Park
12:20-1:05	Tour Mission Recreation Park
1:05 - 1:25	Travel back to Hollywood Rd.
1:25 - 1:40	Afternoon Break & debrief
1:40-3:15	Charette - Andrew Gibbs - Build a youth park (4 sites)
3:15-3:30	Surveys & draw prizes - Hugh Culver Closing speeches - Mayor Shepherd

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Letter from Carla Stephens, Parks Division

December 19, 2007

Marathon Communications
Box 29125 Kelowna BC
V1W 4A7

Dear Hugh and Linda:

Firstly, I would like to thank Mayor Shepherd for selecting Parks and Open Space for the topic of the Mayor's fourth Youth Forum. This was a unique opportunity and was much appreciated by the Parks Department.

The input from the youth has already been used by Parks; it supported items during budget deliberations (mountain bike skills park and washrooms) and during a recent meeting with RCMP and Bylaw regarding safety in City parks. It reinforced research the RCMP had completed earlier and justified the need to crack down on the minority who can make our parks feel unsafe for the majority, including youth. The youth has also recommended programming in parks; while this is already done to some extent the group will now look at bringing together a variety of stakeholders to see how we can maximize programming to discourage inappropriate use in our parks.

The timing of the forum also meant the input was forwarded to the consultant who is working on the Recreation, Parks and Cultural Services Master Plan. This is a document that will guide the direction our department takes over the next 10 years.

In addition to Parks receiving valuable information on what is important to youth when it comes to parks and open space the forum also provided participants with an opportunity to learn more about local government and how they can make a difference. I am hoping this will serve our community well in years to come regardless of the issue.

I feel the value parks received was directly proportional to the effort Marathon Communications, City staff and the youth put in to it. It was a coordinated effort by the entire team including the youth leaders and Jack and Felix from Canada World Youth. Thanks to this event Parks received more than 500 youth responses to an on-line survey that clearly indicated trends, 19 park audits indicating usage and barriers and an all day focus group where issues such as marketing, graffiti, vandalism and urban forestry were tackled by 60 youth.

In the afternoon students designed their ideal park with the help of professional planners using information from the on-line survey and budget constraints; the dialogue around individual tables balanced desires with public input and budget constraints.

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Once again on behalf of the Parks team I would like to thank Marathon Communications and in particular you two. The combination of your high energy and connections with the School District was a huge reason for the success of the Mayor's Youth Forum on Parks and Open Space.

Keep an eye out for our first mountain bike skills park, just one of the many things we hope to implement thanks in part to the input received by the youth.

Yours truly,

Carla Stephens
Parks Administration and Communications Supervisor

cc: Mayor and Council
Reid Oddleifson



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What did you learn from the forum?	What is one change you will make as a result of the forum?	What was the best part of the forum?	What was your least favorite part of the forum?	On the topic of Parks, what other areas do you feel should be addressed?	Do you think these forums are a good idea for youth and City planning?
What goes into creating a park.	I will visit parks more often.	Afternoon Session	Nothing	Anti-drug policies.	Yes, we get everyone's input, so everyone is happy.
About the design of parks is very carefully speculated.	To appreciate and enjoy the local parks, encouraging others.	Afternoon Session	Tour	Programs to prevent/educate about park awareness (safety/vandalism).	Yes, youth are a huge part of the community.
The amount of council interest there is in our parks and their future development.	Listening to the activities that are going in the parks throughout Kelowna.	Afternoon Session	The end.	Horse trails and access.	Yes, different input.
About how the council really appreciates our input.	Be more aware of what it takes to make a park happen.	Tour, Afternoon Session	I thought time was a harder factor to finish the mini-project.	Social Issues.	Yes, it helps us feel needed and get our word out.
Planning a park.		Afternoon Session	When I broke the shovel.	Nothing I can think of.	Yes, it just lets us as younger people get a say.
About all the parks, how much they cost, and all the planning and maintenance.	I may visit the parks more often.	Afternoon Session	So early in the morning.	They need to be cleaner, more security, and more advertising.	Yes, so the City knows what youth are looking for.
What most people like in parks.	Spread the word about parks, go more often.	Afternoon Session	The morning session could be more interesting.	Pools?	Yes, it gives us a say we don't normally have.
Environmental awareness.	Not as long.	Afternoon Session	Morning session.	Safety	Yes, to inform youth.

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What did you learn from the forum?	What is one change you will make as a result of the forum?	What was the best part of the forum?	What was your least favorite part of the forum?	On the topic of Parks, what other areas do you feel should be addressed?	Do you think these forums are a good idea for youth and City planning?
How much it costs to create and manage parks.	I will try to go see more parks and use them as much as possible.	Afternoon Session	Morning session.	Homeless issues.	Yes, it shows us how everything works.
Takes a lot of time and money to create and maintain a park.	Encourage people to use parks.	Afternoon Session	Morning session - I enjoy being active and doing things.	Homelessness.	Yes, it encourages awareness and starts change.
The three types of parks.	I will be more appreciative of the process it takes to create parks.	Tour	N/A	Wildlife sanctuaries.	Yes, educational and get passionate youth together.
It takes a lot of effort and patience to plan parks.	I'll definitely find a park that I can visit regularly from now on.	Tour	The stress of trying to plan the park.	Security!!!	Yes, because they make you think.
It's important to speak out in your community.	Make more use of parks and play sports in them.	Tour	Long hours of the day.	Graffiti.	Yes, it's a good way for youth to get involved.
How much money parks cost.	I will be more aware of the features in parks.	Tour	Didn't have a least favorite part.	Culture and indoor facilities.	Yes, more perspective.
Maintenance and development.	See parks in a different way (according to city).	Afternoon Session	Nothing	Homelessness in parks.	Yes, get youth input (planning for future).
Costs of parks.	I will go to more parks.	Afternoon Session	When I had to leave.	More entertainment and live music in parks.	Yes, because they consider the opinion of the city's youth.

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What did you learn from the forum?	What is one change you will make as a result of the forum?	What was the best part of the forum?	What was your least favorite part of the forum?	On the topic of Parks, what other areas do you feel should be addressed?	Do you think these forums are a good idea for youth and City planning?
How many parks we have.	Visit more parks.	Tour, Afternoon Session	I liked it all.	Vandalism.	Yes, it raises awareness.
I learned about Kelowna's park budget and future park plans.	I want to plant trees more often.	Tour	Going over the budget.	Environmental issues.	Yes, it gets youth involved in the community.
What could be put into parks to make them better.	Going to parks more.	Afternoon Session	Having to sit and listen to people talk in the morning.	Drinking and what kids do on weekends.	Yes, mayor gets our opinion and we learn more about it.
That the city does care about the youth.	Go to more parks.	Afternoon Session	Cold!	Security, fountains, and youth orientated.	Yes, it gets our input.
I learned about future plans of our parks.	Try to be more aware of parks in Kelowna.	Tour	Nothing	Cost of living.	Yes, get you involved (our point of view).
Lots, what more we can do to use parks and make them better.	Probably use parks more.	Afternoon Session	There wasn't a part that was bad. The morning was slow, but I enjoyed it as a whole.	Vandalism, garbage.	Yes, they make us more aware of the issues.
Money gets spent quickly.	Go to parks more.	Tour	N/A	Drugs and alcohol use.	Yes, knowledge.
Expense to operate parks.	Use parks more.	Afternoon Session	Morning session.	Vandalism.	Yes, educate youth, we are the future.

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What did you learn from the forum?	What is one change you will make as a result of the forum?	What was the best part of the forum?	What was your least favorite part of the forum?	On the topic of Parks, what other areas do you feel should be addressed?	Do you think these forums are a good idea for youth and City planning?
I learned the process of how parks are built and formed for the community.	The way I look at and use parks.	Afternoon Session	It all went well.	The amount of awareness of local parks.	Yes, they allow for youth to be heard.
Future park plans.	Not sure.	Tour	Brainstorming about marketing.	Safety even more so.	Yes, it gets youth involved and interested - a dying thing as years go by.
About park planning.	I will go to the park close to my house more.	Afternoon Session	Start (I didn't know anyone).	Student/young people housing.	Yes, we have a lot of ideas.
I learned that there are many changes to parks (safety etc.) that are already in the process.	Visit parks more often.	Afternoon Session	It was all A-OK!	I think that there should be more animal friendly parks.	Yes, it gives youth a voice.
The expense of planning and maintaining a park.	I will visit parks more often and enjoy the hard work the municipality put into them.	Afternoon Session	I didn't have a least favorite part. I enjoyed the new experience.	Most topics were covered. Safety and vandalism I thought were important.	Yes, it increases awareness and appreciation in/for community.
Parks really are a valuable asset to youth and other demographics in Kelowna for organizing activities etc.	Using more parks... different parks.	Afternoon Session			Yes, valuable opinions.
I am much more aware of the existence of nearby	Definitely visit mission sports field more often.	Tour	Definitely the designing aspect.	More merry-go-rounds!	Yes, youth are huge users of the parks. That input is crucial.

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What did you learn from the forum?	What is one change you will make as a result of the forum?	What was the best part of the forum?	What was your least favorite part of the forum?	On the topic of Parks, what other areas do you feel should be addressed?	Do you think these forums are a good idea for youth and City planning?
What the park budgeting is. I had no idea how much money and effort went into them.	Enjoy the parks near me, and visit them more often. Use community garbage pick-up and community service.	Afternoon Session	Leaving someone behind.	Homelessness, affordable housing projects.	Yes, it is nice for youth to have a say.
A lot.	The tree planting.	Afternoon Session	Planting the trees.	I think they were all covered.	
There is a lot more involved in making parks more youth friendly than meets the eye.	Engage use of our parks more often, so I can help give feedback.	Tour	Time constraints on ideal park.	Youth forums on public schools.	Yes, so the city knows what the youth needs are.
I learnt that there is a lot to put forward a plan to adapt or make a park.	I liked it all equally.		Nothing was my least favorite part.	There should be a park mascot.	Yes.
That there are many things to consider when trying to design a place for people to relax and exercise etc.	I will be attending more park orientated functions.	Afternoon Session	The whole thing was fun.		Yes, more youth input.
That we can make a difference in our city parks.	I would change the amount of time I go to parks. I will go more often now.	Afternoon Session	Everything was good!	I think the water quality.	Yes, it gives us information we didn't know and change the way we see the city.

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What did you learn from the forum?	What is one change you will make as a result of the forum?	What was the best part of the forum?	What was your least favorite part of the forum?	On the topic of Parks, what other areas do you feel should be addressed?	Do you think these forums are a good idea for youth and City planning?
How much it costs to develop a park.	More activities, less lecture.	Tour	Time constraint.	Events.	Yes, gives us a voice.
I learned about upcoming places for parks like the old KSS site. I found this very interesting.	I will start policing my friends about garbage so it ends up in garbage cans and not on the ground.	Afternoon Session	I enjoyed all of it. Even missing the bus.	There is no place I can think of.	Yes, informs youth.
The different aspects to consider when making a park.	Submitting suggestions for parks.	All	Having to keep going in and out of our group.	More events = culture.	Yes.
A lot about how our city is run, what makes a difference. Some things about how expensive everything is.	Take more interest in developing parks - look for ideas we gave.	Morning Session	The tour (wasn't dressed for it).	None. I think we pretty much covered it.	Yes, we have input/opinions. We want to have a say even if we can't vote yet.
A lot of info on what goes into planning a park.	I will make a better effort to appreciate the parks we have.	Afternoon Session	Didn't really end on time.	Roads.	Yes, it informs youth about what the city is doing.
How much planning needs to go into making a park.	Usage of parks.	Tour, Afternoon Session	I enjoyed all of it.	Graffiti zones (allowed).	Yes, they keep students aware.
Teamwork counts for success.	Spend more time in parks.	Afternoon Session	Bus ride.	Beach parks - cleanliness.	Yes, it gets youth involved.

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What did you learn from the forum?	What is one change you will make as a result of the forum?	What was the best part of the forum?	What was your least favorite part of the forum?	On the topic of Parks, what other areas do you feel should be addressed?	Do you think these forums are a good idea for youth and City planning?
Teamwork is necessary to succeed.	Spend more time in parks.	Afternoon Session	I liked it all.	Crime in Kelowna	Yes, it gets youth involved.
About the impact of parks in Kelowna and the cost of.	Look at park activities in a different way.	Morning Session	The cold weather.	Public safety.	Yes, to notify youth of current events.
That parks are important to our city.	To respect our parks more.	All	Nothing	I can't think of anything.	Yes, it gets the youth's input.
How fun it can be to plan and how many things are possible.	To see how much energy/time goes into parks.	Afternoon Session	Time pressure at end.	Agriculture.	Yes, because it opens doors, random inspiration.
Park space is more available than I thought.	Attempt to make better use of parks.	Tour	I liked the whole thing.	Elements in parks (skateboard areas, etc.).	Yes
I learned a lot about designing parks.	I would like to go and clean up some graffiti.	Afternoon Session	Listening to speakers.		Yes, they allow kids to see behind the scenes in parks.
All the thought and money that goes into planning.	Maybe use more parks.	Tour, Afternoon Session	It was all good but maybe keep the schools together as groups where you know someone.	Garbage/recycling/littering.	Yes, people that plan don't always know what youth like.
That there are many parks out there that need to be fixed or land where parks can go.	Try to get things going at parks or if there is events, go to them.	Afternoon Session	The cold.	Homeless, more.	Yes, because it gets youth input.