
CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

Date: June 11, 2008
File No.: 6120-20
To: City Manager
From: Terry Barton, Parks Planning Manager
Subject: Update: Phase 2 - Mountain Bike Strategy

Report Prepared by: B. Davidson, Parks Planner

RECOMMENDATION:

That the report from the Parks Planning Manager, dated June 11, 2008, be received as information.

BACKGROUND:

In partnership with the Regional District and with representation on the steering committee from BC Parks and the Ministry of Tourism Sport and the Arts, Phase 1 of the Mountain Bike Strategy, (the Mountain Bike Community Profile) was completed last fall by Fay Baker and Associates and was accepted by Council as information on November 5, 2007.

The profile was the initial step in preparation of the Mountain Bike Strategy. We sought information on: who, where and what kind of mountain biking Kelowna residents participate in, as well as what kinds of facilities are desired, and what the community feels the role of local government should be. Workshops with youth and adults, and research on other communities with mountain biking facilities was undertaken, as well as a non-scientific online survey.

Consultation highlights include: that 75% of respondents live within City limits, with 12% from the Westside; that approximately ¾ of the survey participants were male and that the largest age group of participants were taxpayers between the ages of 25 and 44. We learned through a recent survey that cycling/biking is the seventh highest type of physical activity that Kelowna residents regularly participate in, (Recreation, Parks and Culture Services – Demographics and Trends Research, Ipsos Reid Public Affairs, July 2006, page 19.) We also learned of approximately 12 popular mountain biking areas that span across City and Regional District boundaries; and that the mountain biking community thought that City Council could provide leadership by advocating trail alignments within new developments and risk management.

Phase 1 has resulted in renewed interest by the local mountain biking community and re-establishment of a local mountain biking club, MTBco, (Mountain Bikers of the Central Okanagan - www.mtbco.ca).

The second phase of this project, to prepare a Mountain Bike Strategy, commenced in May of this year. The consultant team of Cascade Environmental Resources Group (CERG), based out of Squamish / Whistler was retained to: conduct an inventory and assessment of the trails in the popular



mountain biking areas, including those identified in the Phase 1 Profile, with assistance from MTBco, to identify, prioritize and select potential bike skills parks sites; to identify epic trail opportunities (trails of approximately +/- 35 km in length); to develop a risk management plan; to undertake public consultation; and to identify phasing, cost and implementation priorities.

With the assistance of CERG, the Mountain Bike Steering Committee has developed the following proposed vision statement:

*"The Central Okanagan will be recognized world-wide
for its excellence in mountain bike trails, facilities, and management."*

A public open house is scheduled for Tuesday, June 24th, at the Kinsmen Field House between 4:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. to receive input on the trail inventory, proposed skills parks sites, and proposed epic trail opportunities.

Following completion of Phase 2 of the Mountain Bike Strategy, Phase 3 – design of the first bike skills park with assistance from the mountain biking community, will commence. Funding for Phase 3 was approved by Council in the 2008 budget.

INTERNAL CIRCULATION TO:

Environment Division – Keri McMahon – Environmental Technician

Transportation Division – Mike Kittmer – Active Transportation Coordinator

Considerations that were not applicable to this report:

LEGAL/STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

LEGAL/STATUTORY PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS:

EXISTING POLICY:

FINANCIAL/BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS:

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

EXTERNAL AGENCY/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS:

ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATION:

Submitted by:



T. Barton, Park Planning Manager

Approved for Inclusion:



Cc: Director of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Services – David Graham
Regional District of the Central Okanagan Parks - Murray Kopp -Assistant Director
Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts – John Glaspie, Recreation Officer, Okanagan District
BC Parks – Kevin Wilson, Area Supervisor, Okanagan Region