

# Report to Council



**Date:** October 24, 2012  
**File:** 1340-20  
**To:** City Manager  
**From:** Parks Planner  
**Subject:** Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund (CIIF) - Apex Trail Restoration

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council receives for information, the report from the Parks Planner, dated October 24, 2012, with respect to the Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund (CIIF) - Apex Trail Restoration.

AND THAT Council supports the application to Western Economic Diversification for a \$100,000 CIIF grant to fund the restoration of the Apex Trail at Knox Mountain Park.

## **Purpose:**

To secure Council endorsement to support an application for grant funding.

## **Background:**

On July 5, 2012, the Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification (WED) announced a new two-year investment program to support the capital renewal and enhancement of community facilities. These would include local arenas, community centres, sports fields, parks, fitness trails and bike paths. Program funding is based on matching contributions from the municipality. The maximum amount of grant funding is \$250,000 and priority will be given to smaller projects. Projects must be "shovel ready" to qualify for submission and completed by March 31, 2014. \$46,200,000 has been allocated to BC, AB, SK and MB over two years.

On August 7, 2012 Council endorsed an application for funding from this program for the first intake of submissions to be put towards structural repairs at the Rutland Family "Y". Staff has completed a submission for restoration of the Apex Trail at Knox Mountain Park to meet the November 19, 2012 deadline for the second intake of applications. Successful funding notification is expected within 90 days of the deadline or approximately February 18, 2013.

In November 2011, Kelowna City Council endorsed the Knox Mountain Park Management Plan 2011, (<http://www.kelowna.ca/CM/Page2063.aspx>) and directed staff to use this plan as a guide to follow in future planning of the park. With stakeholder assistance, 22 capital projects within the park were identified and prioritized. Implementation of these projects was broken down into four phases extending to the year 2026. Of the capital projects identified, restoration of the Apex Trail was the highest priority as it is one of the most heavily used trails in the park and is consequently experiencing degradation and conflicts between trail user groups.

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In 2011 and 2012 budgets were approved to proceed with the restoration of the first phase of the Apex Trail. With assistance from CIIF, it is anticipated that completion of the final phase of the Apex Trail restoration will be achieved in 2013.

This project fits well within the objectives of the WED grant program, and staff are recommending moving forward with this CIIF grant application for the Apex Trail restoration.

**Internal Circulation:**

Manager, Grants  
Manager, Parks and Public Spaces, Design and Construction  
Manager, Parks Services  
Director, Financial Services

**Financial/Budgetary Considerations:**

The CIIF grant funding is contingent on matching municipal funding, therefore if the grant is successful, the City would need to contribute \$100,000. A budget submission will be requested in the 2013 Capital Budget for Council approval in December of this year for Apex Trail Restoration as a Priority 1.

**External Agency/Public Comments:**

The Friends of Knox Mountain have provided a letter of support for the grant submission (see Attachment 1).

**Considerations not applicable to this report:**

Legal/Statutory Authority:  
Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:  
Existing Policy:  
Personnel Implications:  
Communications Comments:  
Alternate Recommendation:

Submitted by:



B. Davidson, Parks Planner, Infrastructure Planning

Approved for inclusion:



R. Cleveland, Director, Infrastructure Planning

Attachment: Letter from Friends of Knox Mountain

cc: General Manager, Community Sustainability  
Director, Civic Operations  
Acting Director, Strategic Initiatives  
Director, Design and Construction Services



# The Friends of Knox Mountain Park

985 Augusta Court,  
Kelowna, B.C.,  
V1Y 7T8.

October 22, 2012

## Officers and Directors

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Western Economic Diversification Canada.

To Whom It May Concern:

The Friends of Knox Mountain Park is pleased to support the application by the City of Kelowna for a grant of \$ 100,000.00 from the Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund to assist with the costs of completing the restoration of the Apex Trail, an important infrastructure component of Knox Mountain Park.

Knox Mountain Park is a jewel among the City of Kelowna's parks, and its unique characteristics draw the attention of area residents and tourists alike.

The City adopted a ten-year management plan for Knox Mountain Park in 2011, and the rehabilitation and restoration of the Apex Trail was identified as the project deserving the highest priority. The Friends, along with other citizen's groups, were involved in extensive consultation during the development of the Management Plan, and I believe it is fair to state that the Plan received the support of all of the groups involved.

Knox Mountain Park is extensively and increasingly used by Kelowna and area residents of all ages and physical abilities as a place for various forms of recreation, including hiking, walking, cycling, scenic viewing, and restful contemplation. Tourism is economically important to Kelowna, and many of the tourists who visit also enjoy the Park for the above reasons, as well as to gain a 'bird's eye view' of the City, Okanagan Lake, and the surrounding areas and hills. The numbers of people using the Park continue to increase from year to year with the consequent necessity of periodic restoration projects concerning the Park's trails and other infrastructure

The Apex Trail is one of the main, heavily used trails, and it has been identified in the Management Plan as one requiring restoration and rehabilitation. The City provided funds for the first phase of restoration which was undertaken this year. It is expected that the City will again provide funds next year for this project. If additional funds are obtained through this grant application, more of the necessary restorative work will be undertaken with its consequent benefits to the City, its residents and many visitors, and the various enterprises that benefit from recreation and tourism.



# The Friends of Knox Mountain Park

985 Augusta Court,  
Kelowna, B.C.,  
V1Y 7T8.

We appreciate the opportunity to support this application, and we respectfully request that you approve the City of Kelowna's application for a Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund grant of \$ 100,000.00.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Bowering". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Bowering,  
President, the Friends of Knox Mountain Park

Phone (250) 763-9121

e-mail: [fkmp@telus.net](mailto:fkmp@telus.net)