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COMMUNITY VISION

What sort of city will Kelowna be in 20 years? According to community input into the Official Community Plan (OCP) 2010 - 2030, people want a city where:

- Urban communities are compact and walkable;
- Housing is available and affordable for all residents;
- People feel safe downtown and in their own neighbourhoods;
- The natural environment (land and water) is protected and preserved;
- Walking paths and bicycle routes connect to key destinations;
- The economy is growing, vibrant and bringing in new businesses;
- Buildings and public spaces are attractive places; and,
- Recreation and cultural opportunities are plentiful.

Residents also expressed a strong desire to make the city more sustainable. When asked in an on-line survey, “Do you think that City Hall should do more to ensure that future development is sustainable?” 92% of respondents said “yes.”

CREATING A SUSTAINABLE CITY

A sustainable city is designed to create the best balance between environmental protection, economic growth, social development and cultural vibrancy.
development and cultural vibrancy. A sustainable city can feed itself from the surrounding countryside, power itself with renewable sources of energy, ensure all residents can find housing, offer a diversity of employment opportunities, and provide the cultural and recreational opportunities desired by residents.

As well, an important part of a sustainable city is creating centrally-located communities served by transportation routes that encourage transit, bicycles and pedestrians, and by efficient infrastructure. These three elements – land use, transportation and infrastructure – are the core decisions that the OCP is meant to help guide.

The Official Community Plan 2010-2030 has been created to realize the community’s vision for a sustainable community while keeping the best of what already exists, such as our waterfront, parklands and water quality.

WHAT CAN AN OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN DO?

An OCP is a document that contains a municipality’s goals, objectives and policies guiding growth and change. An OCP is adopted as a bylaw and therefore becomes a binding document for Council and staff decisions. Specifically, the OCP focuses on land use management – where and when new development happens – and how municipal services will accommodate this growth. It can also consider other factors that are important to our quality of life. This OCP considers active transportation (walking & cycling) with transit and roads, the natural environment, housing, parks, recreation, building design, economic development, and arts, culture and heritage.

In this OCP, the goals, objectives and policies aim to create a sustainable city where environmental concerns are addressed along with the goal of creating a place where people want to live, work and play.

GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) REDUCTIONS

In this OCP, Kelowna makes a commitment to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 33% below 2007 emission levels by 2020 in order to minimize the city’s impact on climate change.

In order to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases created in the community, changes need to occur in how new development happens, how we get around our community, and how we preserve our natural environment. Policies in this document aim to create a long-term, sustainable community by encouraging efficient land use, providing infrastructure and facilities that will support walking, cycling and transit in a more compact and connected community, and protecting environmentally-sensitive areas, while continuing to ensure the city is a desirable place to live.
GOALS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The objectives and policies in each of the OCP chapters are focused on creating a sustainable community. Some of the main goals of this OCP are to:

1. **Contain Urban Growth.** Reduce greenfield urban sprawl and focus growth in compact, connected and mixed-use (residential and commercial) urban and village centres.

2. **Address Housing Needs of All Residents.** Address housing needs of all residents by working towards an adequate supply of a variety of housing.

3. **Feature a Balanced Transportation Network.** Increase the attractiveness, convenience and safety of all modes of transportation by implementing “complete streets” that are designed to serve a broader range of transportation modes, focusing on pedestrians, cyclists and transit service, and function in the context of surrounding land uses.

by embracing sustainable solutions, such as district energy systems, and by providing clear guidelines and incentives for green components for developers.

5. **Foster Sustainable Prosperity.** Foster a healthy, dynamic and sustainable economy by retaining and attracting youth and talent, supporting business, encouraging appropriate new investment, providing for environmentally sound growth and improving the quality of life for Kelowna residents.

6. **Protect and Enhance Natural Areas.** Protect and enhance natural areas by creating an open space network that protects sensitive ecosystems, including watersheds, and links important habitat areas.

7. **Provide Spectacular Parks.** Provide spectacular parks where people pursue active, creative and healthy lifestyles close to where they live and work.

8. **Include Distinctive and Attractive Neighbourhoods.** Develop distinctive and attractive neighbourhoods and urban centres with safe, accessible public spaces that enhance investment.

9. **Enable Healthy and Productive Agriculture.** Promote healthy and productive agriculture through diverse strategies that protect farmlands and food production.

10. **Encourage Cultural Vibrancy.** Encourage cultural vibrancy and quality of life for residents by supporting cultural initiatives that celebrate Kelowna’s distinctive history, culture, identity and arts.

“Develop distinctive and attractive neighbourhoods and urban centres...”