Chapter 10: Social Sustainability
A community is as much a social environment as a physical environment, and to be successful communities must be socially sustainable.
Urban planning and development has long been focused on a community’s physical infrastructure – roads, sewers, utilities and parks. But a community is much more than its built form and natural setting. A community is as much a social environment as a physical environment, and to be successful, communities must be socially sustainable.

From the perspective of this OCP, a socially sustainable community is defined as one that:

- allows residents to meet basic needs for food, shelter, education, work, income, recreation and safe living and working conditions;
- is equitable;
- maintains or enhances the physical, mental and social wellbeing of the population;
- preserves our cultural and biological heritage, thus strengthening our sense of connectedness to our history and physical environment;
- promotes mutual respect, with people living together harmoniously and in mutual support of each other;
- is democratic – promoting citizen participation and involvement; and
- is livable, linking the form of the city’s public places and city dwellers’ social, emotional and physical well-being.

The City can play a role in delivering on social sustainability in the delivery of infrastructure and services.

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Policies related to social sustainability can be found in the Development Process and Infrastructure chapters.

This chapter addresses the role of stakeholder engagement, community-wide resources, and public support for housing opportunities.

**THE CITY OF KELOWNA WILL:**

**Objective 10.1** Promote social well-being and quality of life by providing facilities and services for all community members.

**Policy .1** Distribution of Community Resources. Appropriately distribute and locate community resources (such as libraries, parks, meeting places, community policing, recreation services etc.) so that all neighbourhoods have convenient access.

**Objective 10.2** Increase community engagement.

**Policy .1** Stakeholder Involvement. Involve a broad range of interests identifying solutions for emerging issues, including residents, businesses, non-profits, major institutions, and utility providers, with a particular effort given to involving those typically not engaged in community decisions.

**Objective 10.3** Support the creation of affordable and safe rental, non-market and/or special needs housing.

**Policy .1** Housing Availability. Support the provision of housing for all members of the community, including those in core housing need or requiring special needs housing (transitional, age in place, emergency or shelter).

**Policy .2** City-Owned Land. Continue to consider the potential to lease City-owned land to non-profit housing societies to assist in the delivery of affordable housing.

**Policy .3** Housing Opportunities Reserve Fund. Maintain a housing opportunities reserve fund.

**Policy .4** Use of the Housing Opportunities Reserve Fund. The Housing Opportunities Reserve Fund shall be used for the City to develop and partner to deliver affordable housing units.