



# 2025

## YEAR IN REVIEW



# ABOUT THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The Year in Review captures the progress we made in 2025 and reaffirms our dedication to building a strong, vibrant and resilient West Kelowna through continued alignment with Council’s Strategic Priorities.

## COUNCIL’S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



**INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE**



**PURSUE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROSPERITY**



**STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY**



**FOSTER SAFETY AND WELL-BEING**

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*We acknowledge the City of West Kelowna is gathered on the traditional territory of the syilx/Okanagan Peoples.*

# 2022 - 2026 MAYOR AND COUNCIL



**Gord Milsom**  
Mayor



**Stephen Johnston**  
Councillor



**Jason Friesen**  
Councillor



**Rick de Jong**  
Councillor



**Carol Zanon**  
Councillor



**Tasha Da Silva**  
Councillor



**Garrett Millsap**  
Councillor

## STAY CONNECTED WITH US



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# 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

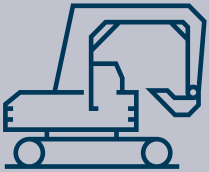


## INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE



5

projects currently in the design phase for future construction



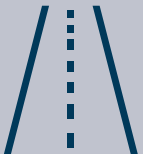
20

active or completed infrastructure projects



4.5

lane kms of new sidewalks and bike lanes



7.7

lane kms of roads resurfaced



5

master plan updates underway/completed



## PURSUE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROSPERITY



\$81.6

million in construction value



509

building permits issued



3,117

inspections completed



369

active new business licences



1

Economic Development Corporation started

\*Stats were projected through Oct. 31, 2025.

# BY THE NUMBERS



## STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY



**2,553**

Net audience growth on social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, X, LinkedIn, YouTube)



**480K**

City of West Kelowna website visits



**11K**

visits to our online engagement platform (OurWK.ca)



**8**

community engagement programs completed



**11,687**

fans attended Music in the Park



## FOSTER SAFETY AND WELL-BEING



**38**

wildfires actioned and/or supported



**10**

wildfire mitigation projects completed



**253**

new trees planted by residents through our Urban Re-Leaf program



**7,356**

calls for service within the municipality to West Kelowna RCMP



**71**

FireSmart Home Assessments completed across the Westside

# OPENING THE NEW FIRE STATION 32 IN LAKEVIEW HEIGHTS

On Oct. 8, West Kelowna Fire Rescue officially began operating out of the new Fire Station 32 at 860 Anders Road in the Lakeview Heights neighbourhood. This project came in on time and on budget.

The new, modern station is a milestone for the City that will be a community amenity and meet the needs of the growing population of West Kelowna and Westbank First Nation for 75 years.

The new fire station was designed with operational efficiency and firefighter health and safety needs in mind. The fire station includes four bays with room for expansion, a large gear room, a hose tower including space for training, a self-contained breathing apparatus room, and separate dormitory space for sleeping.

*“We designed this new fire station with the health and well-being of our firefighters in mind. With input from our crews, we have implemented many improved safety measures such as separate HVAC systems to remove contaminated air, improved cleaning equipment and a gear dryer to reduce carcinogen exposure,” said West Kelowna Fire Chief Jason Brolund. “A lot of hard work has gone into the design and construction of the new fire station, and this will be an important addition to our emergency services for many years to come.”*

Construction on the new Fire Station 32, Lakeview Heights Community Hall and park improvements began in May 2024. The project cost is \$14.3 million and funded by the Province of B.C., thanks to \$1.17 million from the Growing Communities Fund, and by the City of West Kelowna through a combination of long-term borrowing, reserve funds, development cost charges, and developer contributions.

## Fire Station 32 Opening Event



Flag raising on the first day of operations



Fire Chief Jason Brolund marches the flag from the old Fire Station 32 to the new Fire Station 32 and raises the flag to signify opening operations at the new fire station.

The community also celebrated the opening of the new Lakeview Heights Community Hall which was rebuilt as part of the Fire Station 32 redevelopment project. The new hall is over 4200 sq ft – 484 sq ft larger than the previous space. There is improved accessibility and the hall is on the same level as the public parking area. The space includes an improved kitchen area with an outdoor serving area, indoor and outdoor washroom access, as well as dedicated space for the Lakeview Heights Tennis Club.

New Lakeview Heights Community Hall



# BUTT ROAD AND OLD OKANAGAN HIGHWAY INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

This year, we completed intersection improvements at the Butt Road and Old Okanagan Highway intersection, which opened on time and on budget on Dec. 4.

This project enhances safety for all road users and improves connections to key destinations. It is a strategic priority of Mayor and Council under the Invest in Infrastructure pillar.

Valued at \$4.35 million, this multi-jurisdictional project has been carried out in collaboration with Westbank First Nation and the B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Transit.

Butt Road and Old Okanagan Highway intersection



## Project highlights:

### Intersection improvements:

- Additional left-turn lanes in all directions with permissive left-turns
- A new westbound right-turn lane on Butt Road

### New sidewalk:

- 350 metres of new concrete sidewalk
- Replacing 95 metres of existing asphalt path

### New bike lane:

- 640 metres of dedicated bike lanes

### New watermain:

- 672 metres of new watermain to replace aging infrastructure

### Drainage upgrades:

- Enhanced drainage at the southwest corner, where high flows in Westbank Creek have resulted in damage to City infrastructure and private property

### Road Rehabilitation

- An extra 600 lane metres of paving on Old Okanagan Highway

## 2025 PARK UPGRADES

- Major irrigation and infield upgrades at Darroch Sportsfield have significantly boosted field quality and playability.
- Mount Boucherie Field B2's irrigation was enhanced, reducing dry spots and improving safety.
- Westbank Centre Park pergola and Rotary Trails Park gazebos were rebuilt for durability.
- Anders Park construction was completed, and the park opened with a new sport court, playground and three pickleball courts.
- Improved wildfire resilience thanks to fuel-modification work at 10 key sites.
- The Pebble Beach Volleyball Court was reconstructed for a more appealing, low-maintenance space.


### New volleyball court at Pebble Beach



### Westbank Centre Park pergola



- Constructed a 370-metre accessible walkway loop at Westbank Centre Park for an inclusive park experience.
- Field enhancements at various baseball diamonds to elevate sport quality and safety.
- Upgrades to Pritchard Park to improve aesthetics and reduce maintenance.
- Installed 12 bear-safe garbage bins on concrete pads to promote wildlife coexistence and lessen conflicts.
- Added shade trees at Wildhorse and Shannon Woods Dog Parks via the Community ReGreening Grant Program, backed by BC Hydro.
- Contributed to community greening with 253 new trees sold through Urban Re-Leaf.
- Improved Sandstone Park access with new stairs.

 To stay informed of our progress, subscribe for updates at [westkownacity.ca/subscribe](https://westkownacity.ca/subscribe).



# INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE

## New Operations Centre opens

In early 2025, our Parks, Utilities and Operations teams moved into their new shared location at the first purpose-built Operations Centre at 2515 Bartley Court. This location brings together the staff who are responsible for maintaining and operating critical City infrastructure 24/7, improving operational efficiencies across the organization.

Features of the new Operations Centre include an admin building, a five-bay workshop, a mechanic shop, and covered storage.

New Operations Centre



## Upgrades to Anders Park open

Anders Park now includes three new pickleball courts, a new sport court, and a new playground for families to enjoy. Located next to the new Fire Station 32, the West Kelowna Professional Firefighters Local 4457 Charitable Society donated \$50,000 to provide the equipment for the playground.



New playground, sport court and pickleball courts at Anders Park

## Mt Boucherie Community Centre and Child Care Renovation project

Renovations began on the Mt Boucherie Community Centre in the fall to restore the space to community use now that it is no longer being used as City Hall. The restored community centre will include facilities for 16 permanent daycare spaces and 64 afterschool program spaces. The project will also include multipurpose rooms, banquet facilities, and other infrastructure improvements.



## Shannon Lake Active Transportation Corridor

Construction of a new multi-use pathway and road upgrades on Shannon Lake Road from Westbank First Nation IR#9 to Swite Road was completed. The project included road improvements, a new roundabout at Asquith and Shannon Lake Road, pedestrian activated crosswalks at Kinsmen Park, Shannon Way, and Shannon Ridge Drive, more sidewalks, bike lanes and street lighting, and landscaped boulevards.



## HIGHLIGHTS



Our Capital Works Crew completed 20 projects throughout the City to improve drainage, extend sidewalks and bike lanes, upgrade crosswalks and prepare for infrastructure improvements.



A total of 1.5 kilometres of new mains including sewer, storm sewer and water infrastructure were installed across the city.



A total of 4.5 kilometres of new sidewalks, cycling lanes and multi-use path ways were constructed throughout West Kelowna.



Find out more about how we invested in infrastructure this year, by visiting [westkelownacity.ca/capitalprojects](https://westkelownacity.ca/capitalprojects).



# PURSUE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROSPERITY

## Inaugural board for the West Kelowna Economic Development Corporation appointed

The City of West Kelowna Council has appointed the inaugural board of directors for the new West Kelowna Economic Development Corporation (WKEDC). This new organization is dedicated to driving economic growth and business development in the community.

The board members are:

- Joanna Schlosser
- Rick Madison
- Matthew Whitt
- Colin Crabbe
- Peter Balazsy

Councillor Tasha Da Silva and West Kelowna Chief Administrative Officer Ron Bowles are also non-voting members of the board.

Establishing the West Kelowna Economic Development Corporation is one of the main strategic priorities of Council under the Economic Growth and Prosperity pillar.

*“We’ve appointed a board made up of community leaders who will look at ways to help West Kelowna’s economy prosper,” said West Kelowna Mayor Gord Milsom. “I look forward to the work they will undertake to support economic growth, investment and jobs in our community.”*

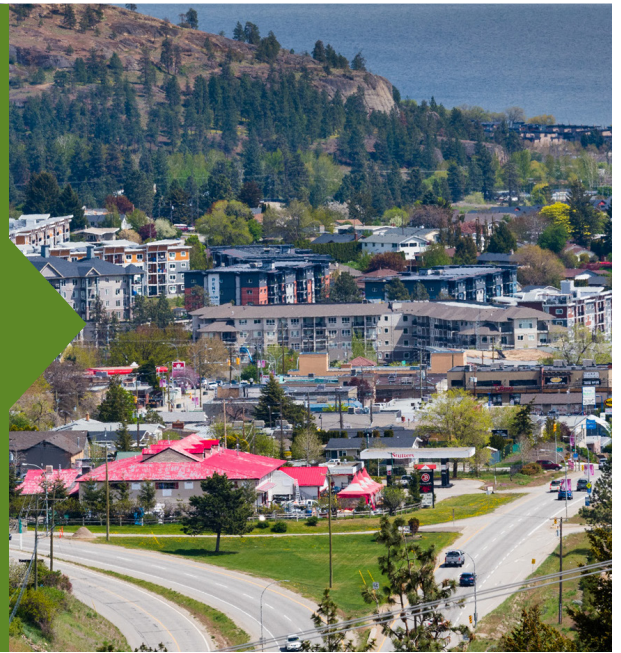
**Aerial view of Mission Hill and surrounding neighbourhood**



## About the West Kelowna Economic Development Corporation

The WKEDC is a newly established, wholly owned municipal corporation of the City of West Kelowna. WKEDC's mandate is to advance economic development strategies and to foster a vibrant, resilient, and prosperous community.

WKEDC will work with local businesses, investors, First Nations, non-profits, educational institutions, and all levels of government to stimulate sustainable economic growth. Its purpose is to attract investment, retain and expand businesses, encourage innovation, promote tourism and events, and support workforce development across West Kelowna and the surrounding region.



### Mayor's State of the City address

Mayor Gord Milsom presented his annual State of the City address in April, hosted by the Greater Westside Board of Trade at the Cove Lakeside Resort. The annual address highlighted our growing community, Council's Strategic Priorities, the Official Community Plan and our continued support for local businesses.

## HIGHLIGHTS



West Kelowna has an estimated population of 40,093 residents (BC Stats, 2024), living in more than 14,750 homes located within an area of 123.53 square kilometres (Stats Canada, 2021). The municipality is the third most populous in the Okanagan and 25th in the Province of B.C. The community continues to grow rapidly with a population increase of 9.9 per cent since 2021 (BC Stats).



The City of West Kelowna serves more than 61,300 people, providing arenas, indoor pool, parks and recreational programs and RCMP detachment to neighbouring jurisdictions. The City of West Kelowna's fire department also provides response and prevention services to Westbank First Nation.



The City of West Kelowna is a partner in regional services with Westbank First Nation, District of Peachland and Regional District of Central Okanagan including regional parks, transit, the Waste Transfer Station on Asquith Road and Westside Wastewater Treatment Plant on Gellatly Road.



To learn more about events and activities happening across the Greater Westside, check out [visitwestside.com](https://www.visitwestside.com).



# STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY

## West Kelowna's first Accessibility Plan developed

At the May 13 Regular Meeting, Council approved the City of West Kelowna's first ever Accessibility Plan. This plan includes three goals and 16 actions and outlines a pathway for building an accessible community where everyone can fully participate in the spaces, processes, and activities of their everyday lives – both now and in the future. The 10-year capital plan provides \$51,500 every three years to conduct accessibility audits and \$51,500 annually for improvement projects.

 Learn more and find the full Accessibility Plan at [westkelownacity.ca/accessibility](https://westkelownacity.ca/accessibility).

### Julia's Junction accessible playground



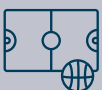
## HIGHLIGHTS



Westside residents are helping to curb climate change by purchasing 253 new trees this year. 2025 was the sixth year of Urban Re-Leaf, our residential planting program, which we created to encourage property owners to increase the green canopy throughout our community.



We continued to create new opportunities and collaborate with third-party partners to support art and culture by expanding our seasonal events. These now include core annual events that are growing in popularity, such as Westside Daze, Canada Day, Music in the Park, the World of Wheels Car Show, Spring and Fall Art Exhibitions, Spring and Fall Multicultural Events, Peruse the Parks, Halloween DJ Skate, FireSmart Family Day, Fall Fair, Light Up, WKFR Food Drive and the Twinkle Tour.



Recreation and Culture programs expanded this year to include more summer day camp and child care programs, hosting 1,621 children. A total of 1,837 people attended the various recreation and culture events offered.

## Updates to the Zoning Bylaw

In 2025, Council adopted a new Zoning Bylaw that better reflects our community's vision and aligns with the goals of the Official Community Plan. The updated bylaw includes details on new Urban and Neighbourhood Centre zones, introduces a density bonusing program to help deliver more priority housing and modernizes parking regulations to accommodate higher density buildings. The bylaw was also updated to align with the Provincial housing legislation.



## Strengthening service collaboration

Working with our partners, we've contributed to coordinating housing and homelessness support, including the Westside Warming Bus; participated in food security planning; supported community sector mapping focusing on service gaps and challenges in West Kelowna; and strengthening access to childcare and family supports.

## New tenant protection policies

On September 16, Council approved the Rental Protection and Tenant Relocation Assistance Policy and an updated Manufactured Home Park Redevelopment Policy. These policies set clear criteria for rental protection, tenant relocation, and compensation. They help prevent the loss of purpose-built rental housing through one-for-one replacement and require advance notice, compensation, and support for tenants affected by redevelopment.



## Pop Ups on the Plaza

This summer, we started Pop Ups on the Plaza - a new, free, and vibrant series of community events at City Hall's outdoor plaza. With 342 people attending over the summer, the community activities offered included zumba, yoga, line dance classes and two-step classes.

Also new this year, a Friday Night Market took place on the plaza before Music in the Park and the Westbank Farmers' Market moved to the City Hall Plaza.



To learn more about recreation and culture events happening in our community, visit [westkelownacity.ca/recreation](https://westkelownacity.ca/recreation)



# FOSTER SAFETY AND WELL-BEING

## Fire Station 33 gear room upgrades

This year, Fire Station 33 (Rose Valley) underwent a small expansion to upgrade its gear room. The project created a safer, more functional space with additional room for firefighting gear and for crews to get dressed quickly when responding to emergencies. A budget of \$1.1 million was allocated to complete the gear room expansion, roof replacements and living quarters upgrade.



## HIGHLIGHTS



A record 1,110 residents attended FireSmart Family Day on May 24, meeting firefighters and WKFR staff while learning to protect their homes from wildfires.



West Kelowna Fire Rescue's FireSmart/Wildfire Mitigation Specialist continues to conduct Home Ignition Zone Assessments, encourage private property owners to complete actions that will improve the survivability of their homes in case of a wildfire, and coordinate community outreach and a FireSmart Family Day to provide education and awareness about preparedness and mitigating wildfire-related risks.



At the 2025 Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) conference (Sept. 22-26), West Kelowna Council met with BC Government Cabinet Ministers and senior staff to discuss advancing affordable and seniors housing projects, improving mental health services on the Westside, securing long-term wildfire mitigation funding, accelerating key Hwy 97 infrastructure improvements, ensuring fair provincial funding for policing and power redundancy for the Westside.

## Two New 15 Passenger Vans

Two new 15 passenger vans are now based at Fire Station 33 and 34 to transport firefighters to emergency scenes as well as training activities. The need for the vans was identified after the McDougall Creek Wildfire and as a part of preparing for future growth in the community.



## Shannon Lake Road Wildfire Mitigation

The Shannon Lake Road Wildfire Mitigation project was completed in March. The five-hectare project lies along Shannon Lake Road in the vicinity of Brookhaven Care Centre and Crystal Springs Mobile Home Park. The work was completed by Ntityix Resources (WFN) crews. It consisted of hand-work, chipping and removing debris. This work has lowered potential fire intensity in the area giving fire crews a better chance to suppress a fire.

## Ice & Swiftwater Rescue Training

In February and March, WKFR crews completed eight hands-on Ice & Swiftwater Rescue training sessions in preparation for threats faced within our community.



## First ever Community Safety & Well-Being Plan

Community engagement took place to inform the development of our first Community Safety & Well-Being Plan. The plan will be a collaborative effort to address the root causes of local challenges and build connected, safe, and strong communities. It will include both short-term actions and long-term approaches that foster lasting change.



Find out more by visiting [ourwk.ca/communitysafetyplan](https://ourwk.ca/communitysafetyplan).



Stay connected with us on Facebook, X and Instagram or sign up to receive our e-notices at [westkellownacounty.ca/subscribe](https://westkellownacounty.ca/subscribe).

**THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY FOR WORKING WITH US  
TO MAKE WEST KELOWNA TRULY THE PLACE TO BE!**

**STAY CONNECTED WITH US**



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