

CLIMATE ACTION REPORT

Prepared by: The City of West Kelowna

2024



ABOUT THE CITY OF WEST KELOWNA

The City of West Kelowna is a vibrant and growing community of more than 40,000 people. With stunning scenery, parks and trails, orchards, recreational amenities and more, West Kelowna is truly the place to be. Situated on the traditional territory of the Syilx Okanagan People, on the central, western hillsides of Okanagan Lake, our community is recognized for its outstanding outdoors and can be enjoyed by paddle boarding or kayaking on Okanagan Lake, mountain biking on best-in-class trails, and hiking and snowshoeing through centuries-old pine forests. Visiting award-winning wineries and local shops, indulging in local produce at farms and farmers markets, and soaking up the atmosphere at cafes, artisan studios and seasonal events make West Kelowna a memorable community to live, work and play. The City offers 130 athletic fields, beaches, boat launches, parks, sports courts and trails. Other facilities and amenities include two arenas, an air-supported multi-sport dome, skateboard park, children's water park, inclusive playground and indoor aquatic centre.

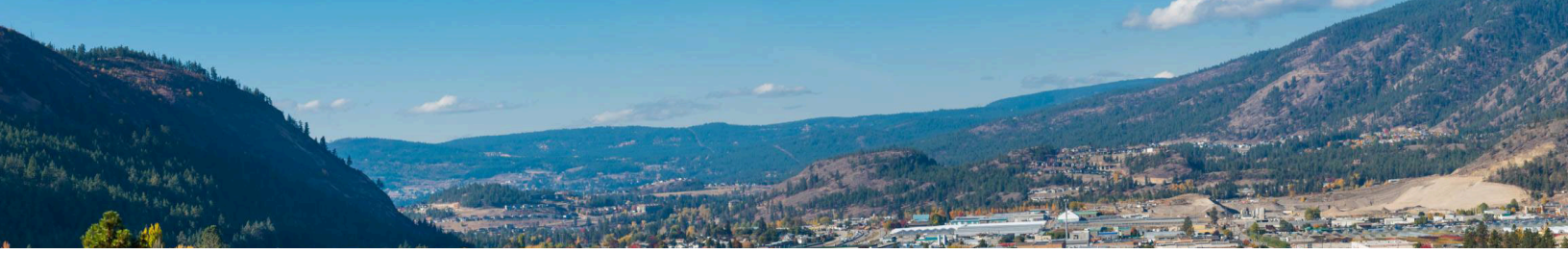


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INTRODUCTION

The Climate Action Report is a requirement of all BC municipalities that have become signatories to the BC Climate Action Charter and provides a means of tracking the progress our municipality has taken in meeting our commitment to reducing emissions, and in adapting to climate change.

About the reporting

Corporate actions are those that directly reduce emissions in City operations. A **community action**, while city-initiated, reduces emissions in a specific area, neighbourhood or the entire municipality.

About the BC Climate Action Charter

The BC Climate Action Charter is an agreement that the Province of British Columbia, Union of BC Municipalities and local governments have signed to commit to act on climate change. The City of West Kelowna has been a signatory since 2007.

The City's **community** climate action goals, as stated in the Official Community Plan, are aligned with provincial emissions reduction targets and include:

- A 40 per cent reduction in GHG emission by 2030 from 2007 levels;
- A 60 per cent reduction in GHG emissions by 2040 from 2007 levels;
- An 80 per cent reduction in GHG emissions by 2050 from 2007 levels.

The City's **corporate** climate action goals are outlined in the Corporate Climate Action Plan, which was completed in 2023. This guiding document compiled an energy and emissions inventory on all corporate assets and identified targets and recommended actions for adaptation and emissions reductions across all municipal operations, including facilities and fleet.



WEST KELOWNA: 2025 AND BEYOND

When we think of what our community could look like in the future, we must consider how to get there, what goals we might establish and how to achieve them. In thinking of the City of West Kelowna's future with respect to climate change, we must satisfy our commitments as a BC Climate Action Charter signatory, remain adaptable and resilient and ensure our community grows in a sustainable and desirable way.

Collaboration and joint action

The City of West Kelowna works closely with a variety of community and business stakeholders and senior and local government partners including Westbank First Nation, District of Peachland, City of Kelowna and the Regional District of the Central Okanagan. All play a vital role in the development of the Westside. We share businesses, facilities, natural areas, and common resources. Together, we can consider how to move forward, adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change. Steps may involve information and knowledge sharing, working together to plan our communities, and strategizing how best to utilize facilities and infrastructure to serve residents and businesses and strengthen our resiliency.

The City of West Kelowna also thanks the Province of British Columbia for providing dedicated funding under the [Local Government Climate Action Program](#) and the Government of Canada for reliable, semi-annual allocations through the [Canada Community-Building Fund](#) to assist in various climate change initiatives.





COUNCIL'S 2022 - 2026 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Pursue Economic Growth and Prosperity

We will work with stakeholders throughout the region to advocate for and support efforts aimed at helping West Kelowna businesses prosper. With a focus on the future, we will advance opportunities to expand our economy, increase employment, and develop the community in ways that contribute towards prosperity for all.



Invest in Infrastructure

We will invest in building, improving and maintaining infrastructure to meet the needs of, and to provide a high quality of life for, current and future generations.



Foster Safety and Well-being

We will pursue through direct action, advocacy, and collaboration with local and regional service providers, investments in community health, needs-based housing, emergency preparedness, policing, and other services that foster safety and well-being in West Kelowna.



Strengthen our Community

We will provide opportunities for the residents of West Kelowna to build connections, celebrate successes, embrace the community's strengths and diversity, address shared needs, and contribute to shaping the community's future.

2024 BY THE NUMBERS



26 active or completed infrastructure projects



250 new urban trees planted



5.5 kms of roads resurfaced



18 wildfires actioned and/or supported



3 plans with climate related strategies



41 wildfire mitigation projects active or completed



130 FireSmart Home Assessments completed by West Kelowna Fire Rescue



5 kms of new sidewalks and bike lanes

CORPORATE EMISSIONS DATA

Service Type	2023 Reported Numbers (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent or tCO2e)	2024 Reported Numbers (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent or tCO2e)
West Kelowna Operations	2,064	2,145
Services delivered by contractors	385	411
Total emissions	2,449	2,556

BROAD PLANNING, POLICY AND LAND USE

Land use plans and policies that focus on smart growth principles – compact, complete, connected, and centered – play key roles in protecting the environment, conserving energy and reducing emissions.

COMMUNITY ACTION

2024 completed

- Work began on the City’s first [Accessibility Plan](#), including two rounds of public engagement, to help deliver municipal services, infrastructure, and facilities that are welcoming and accessible to all, reflect local needs, and promote equity and inclusivity — key pillars of a climate-resilient community.
- Public consultations were held on the Transportation, Parks and Recreational Trails Master Plans. Council adopted the Parks and Recreational Trails Master Plans and, going forward, will consider recommended capital and operational actions from the [park plan](#) (starting Page 61) and [trail plan](#) (starting Page 35) during annual budget deliberations.
- Staff continued work on updates to the Water and Sewer Utility Master Plans.
- The City published an [Infill Housing Strategy](#) in November with a framework to support gentle densification in existing neighbourhoods, meet housing targets and facilitate compact and efficient land use, which is critical for lowering emissions and infrastructure demands.
- Council adopted a new Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan and wildfire mitigation policy; learn more at www.OurWK.ca/wildfireplan.
- Staff presented a report to Council outlining options for sustainable operations at the Westbank Cemetery.



2025 proposed

- Council approved the [Accessibility Plan](#), which includes three goals, 16 actions and considers staff resources, time, and financial capacities to improve accessibility in the community. The 10-year capital plan provides \$51,500 every three years for audits and \$51,500 annually for improvement projects.
- Council supported UBC Okanagan’s application to the Intact Municipal Climate Resiliency grant to examine wildfire coexistence and seek solutions to help communities predict, plan and prevent destructive wildfires. Please read [staff’s report to Council](#) for more details.
- The City gathered further public input into the draft Transportation Master Plan Update and into transit services. Input into the plan will inform key goals and actions, as identified through two initial rounds of consultation into a future, unified, connected multi-use network for the next 20 years. Feedback from a transit survey will inform future service improvements.
- Council adopted the [2025 to 2029 Financial Plan Bylaw](#) with a budget increase of 7.31 per cent for municipal taxes to fund current operations, requested and required service increases in bylaw, policing, fire protection, technology and other areas, and capital improvement in parks, active transportation, facilities and other infrastructure.
- The City participated in Local Government Awareness Week, which focused on sustainable infrastructure. West Kelowna’s Youth Ambassadors visited City Hall to learn about the municipality’s key role and challenges, such as extreme weather and rapid growth, in providing infrastructure. The City continues to advocate for federal and provincial government funding to help overcome challenges.
- The City will create plans recommending new and improved amenities for Mar Fee Park in Rose Valley, and Memorial Park in Westbank Urban Centre.
- Council adopted a new [West Kelowna Cemetery Bylaw](#), which also increased user fees to support sustainable operations of the memorial gardens.
- Comprehensive updates to the Zoning Bylaw to include Urban and Neighbourhood Centre zones, and density bonusing policies were adopted to meet provincial housing legislation and promote compact growth, infill housing, smaller lots, density bonuses, urban containment and regional growth strategies to reduce sprawl and preserve natural spaces.





KEY PLANS HELP ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE

In 2024, the City of West Kelowna advanced several key plans that will help address climate change and guide our community to a stronger and more resilient future.

Council adopted the updated [Parks Master Plan](#), which guides the development and enhancement of our parks to meet the needs of all residents. The plan focuses on upgrading existing facilities, creating new spaces, and ensuring parks are accessible, inclusive and sustainable. Council also adopted the updated [Recreational Trails Master Plan](#), which provides recommendations for planning, development, operations, and investments in the trail network over the next decade. Council, stakeholder and public input into both plans was gathered over two years. Providing a variety of parks and trails helps create a more connected and complete community and offers opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to easily access nearby amenities. The City is committed to providing spaces that complement and respect the natural beauty that surrounds West Kelowna.

In 2024, the City completed its first [Infill Housing Strategy](#), which is aligned with the Housing Needs Assessment and Official Community Plan, and supports up to four Small-Scale Multi-Housing Units on many existing single-family residential lots so that, in addition to single-detached homes, duplexes with secondary suites and/or carriage houses can be built on many lots. The strategy supports infill that is near amenities, transportation options, and infrastructure and remains sensitive to the West Kelowna context.

West Kelowna's first [Accessibility Plan](#) was created, with input gathered through two rounds of public engagement. The plan outlines a path for building a community where everyone, regardless of ability, can actively engage in all aspects of daily life — now and in the future.

Council also adopted the new [Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan](#) and an updated wildfire mitigation policy. The plan provides achievable, strategic action items to enhance our community's wildfire resiliency, prioritize risk management in the wildland-urban interface, where homes and buildings intersect with forested areas. Fuel reduction is a crucial annual activity involving City staff, contractors, and the public. By actively engaging in wildfire fuel mitigation efforts and adopting FireSmart practices, we can enhance our community's resilience against fires and protect our homes, infrastructure, and the environment.



City Hall mass timber build in 2023 prior to being finished.

BUILDING AND LIGHTING

Low-emission buildings, efficient lighting and LED streetlights use the least energy and natural resources to provide comfort and safety and reduce operating expenses. Green buildings use renewable energy sources, such as solar and geothermal, for heating, cooling, and power.

COMMUNITY ACTION

2024 completed

- The City continues the planning and design process to return [Mount Boucherie Community Centre](#) to the community. The ChildCareBC New Spaces fund has provided \$3.0 million to create 80 new, centrally located childcare spaces within the facility.
- The City will continue LED conversions on more than 1,700 streetlights.

2025 proposed

- The City will implement actions supported by the Government of Canada's [Housing Accelerator Fund](#). The City received nearly \$8 million to help fast-track the construction of 233 new homes within three years and support the development of up to 780 units over the next decade. Initiatives will include:
 - Increasing infill housing.
 - Fast-tracking standard housing designs.
 - Completing zoning updates that will encourage more rental, affordable and missing middle housing.
 - Seeking opportunities to develop affordable, non-market housing on public lands through a land inventory.
 - Improving technologies, such as e-permits to streamline approvals.
- The City made progress toward achieving the [Provincial Housing Target Order](#) of 2,266 net new completed housing units by July 2029. The Year 1 target of 289 net new units was surpassed with 331 completed.
- Council adopted [Zoning Bylaw No. 320](#) to support housing needs. Updates include:
 - Updating endpoint facility requirements in multi-family residential buildings;
 - Clarifying electric vehicle charging requirements, including a mandate for 10 per cent of required parking spaces to include energized EV outlets in apartments and townhouses (excluding RP1 zone);
- Progress continued on the [Fire Hall #32 Replacement Project](#) with the facility on track to open in fall 2025. The three-level, 1,579-square-metre complex will provide required safe operations for firefighters, which the current 50-year-old hall lacks, and will consist of four bays, a large gear room, hose tower, SCBA room, workshop and living quarters.

CORPORATE ACTION

2024 completed

- The purpose-built City Hall/Library Building, celebrated as the largest mass timber building in the Okanagan at the time of completion, was officially opened in summer 2024. The use of mass timber highlights the City's commitment to low-carbon building materials. The centralized model, with services consolidated in one building, versus several across the City, demonstrates a commitment to administrative efficiencies.

2025 proposed

- Construction will be completed on the City's first purpose-built Operations Centre. The facility will provide centralized, efficient fleet operations for more than 80 staff who maintain and operate critical infrastructure, including roads, sidewalks, parks, water, and sewer. This centralized fleet operation will reduce emissions from fleet movement between multiple sites.
- In support of improved energy performance in civic buildings, Council approved four recommended [energy retrofit projects for Royal LePage Place](#): Controls optimization; dehumidifier operations optimization, 100-ton heat pump; and desuperheater.

2024 and ongoing

- The West Kelowna RCMP Detachment uses a solar hot water heating system and has a green roof.

ENERGY GENERATION

Renewable and low-emission energy for heat, air conditioning and power achieve significant GHG reductions. Renewable sources include recovery from waste such as biogas and biomass, geothermal and solar thermal, micro hydroelectricity, heat pumps and wind. Systems can be implemented to varying degrees ranging from individual homes to entire neighborhoods via district energy.

COMMUNITY ACTION

2024 and ongoing

- The City continues to advocate for the Province of BC and BC Hydro to secure a second, reliable clean energy power line to our community. The only current power source runs from the Nicola substation in Merritt to the substation in Westbank.

CORPORATE ACTION

2024 and ongoing

- Staff continues to operate and maintain the geothermal energy system at Royal LePage Place arena.
- The City continues to purchase carbon offsets, as part of the annual operations at the LEED® Silver Certified West Kelowna RCMP Detachment, through Bullfrog Power.



GREEN SPACE

Green spaces are essential to planetary climate regulation and carbon dioxide and oxygen cycles and can be protected through the creation of parks, greenways, land conservancy trusts, community forests, covenants and regulations. Brownfields, contaminated sites and clearcuts can be remediated and wetlands, waterways and other natural assets can be protected to aid in reducing emissions.

COMMUNITY ACTION

2024 completed

- Council approved several projects to replace or upgrade amenities in various parks including new gazebos, to provide shade and rest areas, in Rotary Trails along the Okanagan Lake waterfront and Westbank Centre Park in the City's urban core.

2025 proposed

- The City applied to the Province of B.C. seeking [30-year licences of occupation](#) for existing public swimming areas and boat ramps/launches for Pebble Beach, Marina, Pritchard and Casa Rio Parks and for Casa Loma Beach, Dupuis Boat Launch, Casa Loma Dock and Casa Loma Waterfront Access and for public recreation and park use for 47.9 ha of Okanagan Lake foreshore in Gellatly Bay.
- The City tested two pilot projects at City Hall and along the new Shannon Lake Active Transportation Corridor, seeding wildflowers instead of sod to support urban biodiversity and reduce water consumption.
- The City is improving park and recreational spaces closer to home with upgrades in several neighbourhood parks including playground safety repairs, resurfacing of basketball courts, the continued rollout of bear-resistant garbage cans, tennis court surface replacement at Anders Park and improvements at Ranch Park.

2024 and ongoing

- Several irrigation system renewals and replacements were completed in municipal parks to improve water efficiency and reduce consumption during peak drought periods.
- The Urban Re-Leaf Program continues to support tree planting on private property and public spaces. This program expands the urban tree canopy and enhances air quality, helps remove greenhouse gases, and reduces urban heat, contributing directly to community-level climate mitigation.



SOLID WASTE

Green spaces are essential to planetary climate regulation and carbon dioxide and oxygen cycles and can be protected through the creation of parks, greenways, land conservancy trusts, community forests, covenants and regulations. Brownfields, contaminated sites and clearcuts can be remediated and wetlands, waterways and other natural assets can be protected to aid in reducing emissions.

COMMUNITY ACTION

2024 completed

- WildSafeBC and the City of West Kelowna collaborated to complete the community's first Bear Hazard Assessment, which identifies current and potential risks for human-bear conflicts.

2025 proposed

- Staff will take the next steps in the [Bear Smart Community Program](#), including the submission of a funding request for creating a Human-Bear Conflict Management Plan, which will offer recommendations such as enhanced education, solid waste management, and bylaws.

2024 and ongoing

- The City continues to partner with the Regional District of Central Okanagan to provide curbside residential collection of recycling, waste and yard waste and the centrally-located Westside Residential Waste and Recycling Centre, which ensure the delivery of sustainable solid waste management services within the community and reduce round trips of up to 70 km to the Glenmore Landfill in Kelowna.
- Staff actively participate in the Solid Waste Technical Advisory Committee (SWTAC) which reviews regional service delivery and initiatives.
- Agendas, annual reports, seasonal recreation guides and other traditionally paper-intensive products are now produced digitally for the public, with print versions only available upon request.

CORPORATE ACTION

2024 and ongoing

- The City continues to participate in the Commercial Waste Diversion Program.
- The City encourages going paperless across the organization to reduce waste in municipal operations.

TRANSPORTATION

Cycling, e-bikes, electric, hybrid and alternative fuel source vehicles, public transit, ridesharing, cycling and walking significantly reduce emissions and create more livable communities. Efficient transportation networks, active transportation corridors and reliable connections between neighbourhoods and trip generators are also key to reducing emissions.

COMMUNITY ACTION

2024 completed

- Design work for upgrades to the Old Okanagan Highway and Butt Road intersection were completed.
- [Shannon Lake Road Active Transportation Corridor](#) was completed from Swite Road to Westbank First Nation. The project included a multi-use pathway creating neighbourhood interconnectivity and connections between Shannon Lake Regional and Kinsmen Parks and a roundabout at the Shannon Lake/Asquith intersection.
- The City will continue the [Road Rehabilitation Program](#) funded through the Canada Community-Building Fund and Capital Reserves.
- The City began the design phase for improvements on Elliott Road from Reece to Smith Creek Roads, to add a multi-use pathway, improve road safety and create safer connections between transit stops.
- [Boucherie Road Multi-Use Pathway](#) Phases 1 and 2 were officially opened. The upgrades improved safety and access for pedestrians and cyclists, with funding contributions from Destination BC for Phase 1 and the BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Program for Phase 2. Learn more at ourwk.ca/boucherie.
- The [City renewed its annual operating agreement with BC Transit](#). Transit is a vital component of the City's climate mitigation efforts, helping reduce single-occupant vehicle use and lowering carbon emissions.

2025 proposed

- The City is upgrading the Old Okanagan Highway and Butt Road Intersection to improve safety for all users and enhance connections to key destinations including 640 metres of new dedicated bike lanes.
- [Shannon Lake Road Active Transportation Corridor Section 2](#) between Golf Course Drive and Tallus Drive is being upgraded to include new sidewalks, bike lane and lighting.
- The City is creating a new active transportation corridor on Horizon Drive to improve safety, visibility, accessibility and connectivity. Upgrades will include:
 - 1.1 km of new sidewalks, curbs, and gutters along the west side of Horizon Drive.
 - 2.2 km of new dedicated bike lanes on both sides of Horizon Drive.
 - Upgraded street lighting, storm improvements and ditching.
 - New road markings and signage.



CORPORATE ACTION

2024 completed

- Proposed corporate transportation policies, programs and actions include:
 - Programs to increase high-occupancy (two or more people) vehicle trips (i.e. carpooling).
 - Implementing a zero-emission vehicle first procurement policy for all local government on-and-off-road vehicles purchases.
 - Active transportation education and encouragement programs.
 - Electric vehicle charging studies/planning.
 - Electric vehicle charging infrastructure investments.

2025 proposed

- The City of West Kelowna will purchase additional electric or hybrid vehicles and plans to install further electric vehicle fast charging stations at its facilities as part of its ongoing fleet electrification strategy. Funding for this project is anticipated to come from the Local Government Climate Action Program.

2024 and ongoing

- City staff will continue to promote and participate in GoByBike Weeks to shift to cycling as a sustainable transportation alternative.





NEW SHANNON LAKE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR IMPROVES CONNECTIVITY

The new [Shannon Lake Active Transportation Corridor](#) has been well received by the community. The Corridor runs from Swite Road to Westbank First Nation, which was completed in October 2024, marking a major milestone in advancing safe, sustainable, and climate-friendly transportation options.

The \$5.2 million project enhances pedestrian and cyclist safety and connectivity along a major arterial road and encourages active, low-emission travel within the community. The [B.C. Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant Program](#) contributed \$500,000 toward the project. In 2025, a second phase, from Golf Course Drive to 2649 Shannon Lake Road will be completed.

Section 1: Kinsmen Park to Swite Road

- 1.7 km of multi-use pathway (850 metres on each side of the road)
- New [roundabout at Shannon Lake and Asquith Roads](#), improving traffic flow and reducing emissions from idling
- 900 m of road upgrades, including curbs and fresh pavement
- Pedestrian-activated crosswalks at Kinsmen Park, Shannon Way and Shannon Ridge Drive
- 850 m of new street lighting to enhance visibility and nighttime safety
- Stormwater system upgrades to improve drainage and climate resilience
- Landscaped boulevards to improve the corridor's visual and environmental quality

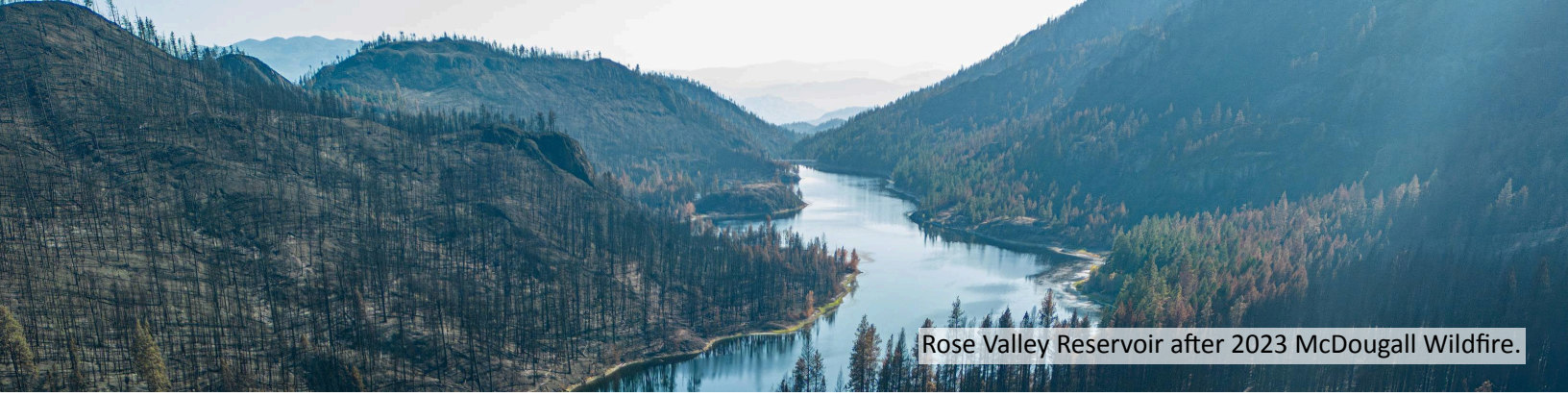
Section 2: Golf Course Drive to 2649 Shannon Lake Road

This completed project supports West Kelowna's climate action and transportation goals by:

- Reducing reliance on personal vehicles
- Encouraging walking and cycling
- Improving safety and connectivity for all ages and abilities
- Reducing GHG emissions through smoother traffic flow and non-motorized options

The Shannon Lake Active Transportation Corridor stands as a successful example of integrated infrastructure that delivers long-term environmental, social and economic benefits for the community.

Learn more: www.ourwk.ca.



Rose Valley Reservoir after 2023 McDougall Wildfire.

WATER, STORMWATER AND WASTEWATER

Efficient and sustainable water, wastewater and stormwater systems provide the necessities of life in ways that encourage conservation, guard public health, protect watersheds and watercourses and reduce emissions. The most efficient systems draw water from undisturbed watersheds, which require less treatment, and are fed by gravity and natural hydrology, requiring less equipment and energy than those that must pump water.

COMMUNITY ACTION

2024 completed

- The City officially opened the Rose Valley Water Treatment Plant, which delivers potable water to more than 19,650 residents in over 8,550 customer connections. The Public Works Association of British Columbia awarded the completed plant as Project of the Year for its complexity, innovative design and unique features. The facility, which remains in the commissioning phase, plays a key role in enhancing water quality and resilience to climate-related risks such as drought and wildfire.
- The City partnered with BC Hydro on Energy Efficiency Feasibility Studies for both the Powers Creek and Rose Valley Water Treatment Plants. In addition, a similar partnership with BC Hydro also developed an Integrated Energy Audit for some of the City's pump stations.
- Design was completed and construction began on upgrades to Powers Creek Water Treatment Plant including a new intake screen and conversion to hypochlorite gas.
- Approximately 25 certified operators continue to operate the system and monitor water quality in West Kelowna's two water service areas—Powers Creek and Rose Valley—to ensure regulatory compliance and protect public health.
- The City remained an active partner in the [Make Water Work campaign](#), part of the Okanagan Basin Water Board's Water Wise program. The initiative encourages residential water conservation through practical actions such as watering during cooler hours and selecting drought-tolerant landscaping.
- Stevens Road Lift Station upgrades were completed. Modern lift stations use less energy and ensure safe, reliable service as the community grows.
- The City began upgrades on water sample stations for the Powers Creek and Rose Valley water service areas.

COMMUNITY ACTION

2025 proposed

- Improvements will be made to manage raw source water in Rose Valley Reservoir to address manganese, algae, and total organics, which, if unmanaged, can affect water quality. Climate change, including more frequent and intense wildfires and increasing temperatures are contributing to the effects of manganese, algae and total organic levels. To help mitigate this, the city will be installing a permanganate pre-treatment system at the dam and a modern aeration system in the reservoir.
 - The City will continue to monitor reservoir and provincial drought levels and implement Stage 2 Water Regulations at the start of the summer, as required.
- A comprehensive annual water main flushing program will continue to remove settled sediment from the Rose Valley Water Service Area's distribution system. Sediment accumulated before the Rose Valley Water Treatment Plant was in service.
- Other projects that will begin soon include upgrades to the sewer utility, improvements to the Pritchard/Green Bay lift station, replacement of the Horizon Drive watermain, and an update to the sewer system model.
- The City is planning storm water improvements on Menu Road to better manage runoff during extreme weather events and support climate adaptation.
- The City is planning an update to the Storm Drainage Master Plan to enhance management of storm water and support climate resilience.
- The City continues to partner with BC Hydro with hopes of securing a funded Energy Manager for a two year term.

CORPORATE ACTION

2024 completed

- Water-saving energy efficiency fixtures and devices, including automated taps and appliances, were installed in the new City Hall/Library building.

2025 proposed

- Water-saving energy efficiency fixtures and devices, including automated taps and appliances, were installed in the new Operations Centre and Fire Hall #32 Replacement Project.



ROSE VALLEY WATER TREATMENT OFFICIALLY OPENED

The City of West Kelowna celebrated the official opening of the Rose Valley Water Treatment Plant on May 31, 2024, marking a major investment in public health, climate resilience and long-term infrastructure planning.

Representatives from the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia, members of the community and key project design, engineering and construction team members joined Mayor and Council and municipal staff to mark the completion of what was the largest capital project in the City's history and the delivery of potable drinking water to more than 19,650 residents across multiple neighbourhoods.

"The official opening of the Rose Valley Water Treatment Plant is a tremendous milestone for our community," said Mayor Gord Milsom. "We are very proud to celebrate this priority project together with our community, and we sincerely thank the Governments of Canada and B.C. for their incredible support."

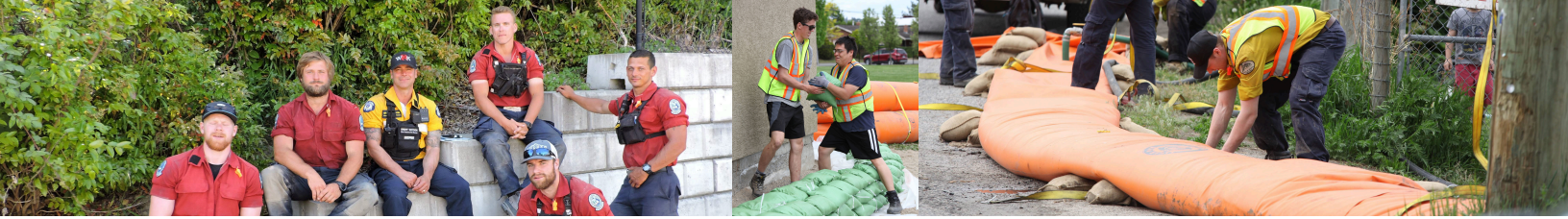
Partnership-driven project

Funding for the \$75-million project was provided through a \$41 million grant under the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund, with the Government of Canada contributing \$24.7 million and the Province of British Columbia investing \$16.3 million. Development cost charges contributed \$6.1 million and \$4.4 million came from reserves, with the final \$23.5 to be borrowed and the costs shared equally among parcels in the system that receive water from the treatment plant.

Plant capacity and features

The 5,245-square-metre facility uses a multi-barrier treatment process that includes coagulation, flocculation, dissolved air flotation, filtration, UV disinfection and chlorination. The result is drinking water that meets or exceeds federal and provincial guidelines. The facility can treat up to 70 million litres of water per day, with capacity to increase to 115 million litres daily in the future. Construction began in March 2020. The project was built by Maple Reinders Inc., and was completed in December 2023, with commissioning continuing through 2024 and 2025. For more information about the project, please visit westkelownacity.ca/rvwtp.





ADAPTION AND RESILIENCE

Resilient and adaptive communities are equipped to withstand and recover from climate-related impacts while protecting people, infrastructure and ecosystems. Effective adaptation reduces risks from extreme weather, wildfires, and shifting environmental conditions by integrating climate foresight into planning, design and operations. The most resilient systems prioritize natural infrastructure, diversify supply chains and services, and strengthen local capacity to respond. By embedding flexibility and redundancy into built and natural environments, adaptation efforts safeguard public health, support social equity, and reduce long-term costs.

COMMUNITY ACTION

2024 completed

- West Kelowna Fire Rescue's FireSmart/Wildfire Mitigation Specialist conducted Home Ignition Zone Assessments, encouraging private property owners to take preventative actions to reduce wildfire risks around their homes. FireSmart staff also led community outreach initiatives, including a well-attended FireSmart Family Day, aimed at building public awareness of fire safety and emergency preparedness.
- To support emergency response and evacuation planning, the City completed the construction of two new fire evacuation egress routes:
 - A connector between the Casa Loma and Lakeview Heights neighbourhoods.
 - A route for the Glenrosa neighbourhood, linking Inverness Road to Pleasantview Road to Lower Glenrosa Road.
 - These strategic infrastructure upgrades improve evacuation egress efficiency during wildfires or other emergencies.
- In response to ongoing flood risk and climate change, the City, with funding received through the provincial Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation Program, is designing flood mitigation measures along McDougall Creek, with a focus on the Pike/Capri and Hitchner/Jennens areas.

2025 proposed

- To strengthen regional emergency preparedness, Council supported the Regional District of Central Okanagan's joint application, on behalf of local governments, to the provincial 2025 Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Training and Equipment Supports grant program, seeking \$240,000 to enhance staff training and acquire technology and equipment for the region's EOC, which is activated during States of Local Emergency to coordinate response and recovery.
- The City will begin implementing recommended actions of the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan and advancing FireSmart initiatives and community accessibility improvements.

2024 and ongoing

- The City of West Kelowna continues to install emergency backup power generators in new facilities, including the Fire Hall #32 Replacement Project and will explore the creation of a strategy going forward to fund further installations at existing facilities to provide added community resiliency should power disruptions occur due to emergencies.

WEST KELOWNA IMPROVES COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RESILIENCY

In response to climate adaptation and the increasing risk of wildfires, the City completed construction on a comprehensive fire evacuation egress, connecting the Casa Loma and Lakeview Heights neighborhoods.

The egress will improve safety for Casa Loma residents for use when the primary route along Campbell Road is impassable.

Another egress option for the Glenrosa neighbourhood was also completed, connecting Inverness Road to Pleasantview Road and ultimately Lower Glenrosa Road. As part of the egress work in Glenrosa, the City also enhanced pedestrian safety around Webber Road Elementary School with nearly 200 meters of new sidewalks, stormwater upgrades and additional parallel parking.

These infrastructure improvements support the city's ongoing efforts to adapt to changing climate conditions and reduce wildfire risks in vulnerable communities.

The City also created a new Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP), which built on the recommendations of the 2018 Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan. The new plan aims to strengthen our neighbourhoods against future wildfire threats. The CWRP provides City and West Kelowna Fire Rescue staff with achievable and strategic action items to enhance community wildfire resiliency while prioritizing wildfire risk management in the wildland-urban interface, where homes and buildings intersect with forested areas.



LOCAL CLIMATE PARTNERSHIPS

Regional District of Central Okanagan and area local governments - partnerships include the Kelowna Regional Transit System, the Westside Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Westside waste transfer station and the Central Okanagan Emergency Operations Centre.

Westbank First Nation - partnerships include West Kelowna Fire Rescue and an agreement to provide parks and recreational facilities and services to all residents living on the Westside.

Emergency Management BC, BC Wildfire Service and FireSmart BC - worked with provincial ministries and agencies to aid the community during times of emergency (i.e. flooding and wildfire) and provide support and education on reducing fire hazard risks.

Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) - the City is a member of the OBWB, which helps promote conservation through the Okanagan WaterWise and Make Water Work initiatives.

Interior Health - collaborate on opportunities to improve community health and wellness, including work on city plans, policies, and initiatives and issuing water quality advisories and boil water notices, as necessary.



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