

Salmon Arm Urban Trails and Greenway Strategy

Recommendation to City Council Budget Process

October 14th, 2008

The following recommendations are respectfully presented to the Oct. 14th meeting of City Council for public input to the 2009 budgeting process. They are presented on behalf of a consortium representing the Greenways Committee, the Shuswap Trail Alliance, the Salmon Arm Nature Bay Enhancement Society, and the local mountain biking and cycling community. They grow out of a series of planning discussions that have included City planning and operations management.

Building on the remarkable volunteer and in-kind contributions to date of the City Greenways committee, the local mountain biking and cycling community, and other active citizen groups, a wide spread strategic approach to urban and wilderness trail and greenway development has evolved throughout the region. The past five years have seen an unprecedented leap in public support throughout the Shuswap and our City for well designed, signed, maintained, and promoted trails and greenways for active transportation and recreation. There is a desire to protect the investment made by so many over the past years, and effectively support new investment.

This new era of urban and natural infrastructure design has included the development of public parks and trail programs in each of the electoral regions of the CSRD, elevation of trails and greenways to priority level objectives within all recent OCP reviews and planning processes throughout the region, adoption of greenway design into new developments, widespread work to collaboratively develop a world-class regional trails and greenway system (the Shuswap Trail Strategy), creation of the Shuswap Trail Alliance, and most recently, inclusion as a core priority in the 2008 CSRD Strategic Plan.

All of our regional and local efforts continue to be affirmed by similar efforts from the Province of British Columbia, the Federal Government, and many other granting agencies supporting the greenway redesign of communities and regions for economic, social, and environmental sustainability and resilience. The key to taking advantage of these leveraged funding opportunities, however, has been the need for a clear trail and greenway mandate by local governments supported by annual budgets and a commitment to work collaboratively with other local governments, Band councils, and stewardship groups within the region.

Despite our hard work and accomplishments to date, significant opportunities have been missed. But we are now poised to make a significant next move.

To this end, we make the following recommendations:

1. mandate and allocate the budget (and corresponding staff support) to develop an urban greenway strategy for the City of Salmon Arm that would include:
 - a. a process for widespread consultation throughout the community
 - b. articulation of clear Urban Trails and Greenway objectives for the City of Salmon Arm that are:
 - i. recognized as core to development, design, and infrastructure

- ii. connective (i.e. they link the community)
 - iii. focused on both active transportation and recreation;
 - iv. include infrastructure for enhanced cycle mobility;
 - v. both infrastructure/operations (development and maintenance) AND social/economic based (i.e. marketing, tourism, destination attraction, recreation programming, promotions and communications tools – signs, maps, guide, web);
 - vi. integrated with current transportation and design planning processes, the City Heritage Strategy, OCP review, and other civic planning processes like the Smart Growth initiative;
 - vii. and integrated into the wider regional trail strategy (standards, partnerships, marketing initiatives, collaborative development and maintenance agreements, First Nations partnerships)
- c. development of a comprehensive greenway and trail planning map showing existing, currently proposed, and potential corridors
 - d. adaptation of the new regional trail sign and design standards (see Shuswap Trail Strategy, Shuswap Trail Alliance) within the City context to guide future development
 - e. development of both a capital construction strategy AND an annual management and maintenance strategy, with
 - i. corresponding annual budget
 - ii. governance tools (policy, bylaws, tax allocation, development incentives, homeowner incentives, etc.)
 - iii. mandated greenways governance structure integrating the investment and resources of stewardship organizations (Greenways, SABNES), City leadership, and wider regional alliances (CSR, Shuswap Trail Alliance, Shuswap Bands, Switzmalph Cultural Centre, etc.)

Estimated Budget: \$25,000 - \$50,000 (depending on scope and other available resources, i.e. staff time, additional Alliance support, etc.)

- 2. make a preliminary budget commitment for 2009 to support identified greenway priorities that would include:
 - a. City greenway construction projects
 - i. Park Hill Trails (completion) **Budget: \$25,000**
 - ii. SABNES foreshore trail (eastern upgrade) **Budget: \$25,000**
 - iii. Turner Creek Upgrades (Phase 1) – Upper Trail (30th – 20th) **Budget: \$10,000**
 - iv. Gleneden: Siphon Falls/Palmer Creek Trails **Budget: \$10,000**
 - b. 2009 Greenway signage project. “*Well Signed in 09*”

- i. Targeting 70 locations including Turner Creek, Cress Creek, Auto/4th, SABNES, 20th Underpass, Okanagan, Maplewood, Coyote, Little Mtn entrances, also Kiosk Maps at City Hall, Visitor Center, Wharf, Canoe Beach, Okanagan College, McGuire Lake, Little Mountain, Haney House, Coyote Park, malls
 - ii. **Budget: \$11,000** (Design \$2000, Materials \$6,000 Install \$3,000)
 - c. 2009 Greenways “Launch” program (in collaboration with Trail Alliance, CSRD, Shuswap Tourism, Visitor Centres) **Budget: \$3500**
 - i. Salmon Arm trail mapping and guide sheets Budget: \$2,000
 - ii. Displays (mall kiosks, posters, etc.) Budget: \$1,000
 - iii. Web site launch Budget: \$ 500
 - d. Greenway/Trail planning priorities for 2009. **Estimated Budget: \$15,000**
 - i. Turner Creek Rotary Trail upgrades (Phase 2) – Lower (20th – McGuire Lake) (consultation, planning and design \$2000)
 - ii. West Bay Trail (consultation, planning, and design \$5000)
 - iii. Gleneden (consultation, planning, and design \$5000)
 - iv. Little Mt. To Haney House (incorporate within Heritage Strategy)
 - v. Rifle Range to Mt. Ida (Planning and Design \$1000)
 - vi. South Canoe – existing trail and proposed Larch Hills Connector (consultation and planning \$2000)
 - vii. Raven/Coyote Connector (ongoing)
 - e. Greenway Committee Volunteer Tool Request
 - i. 2009 requirements include rakes, shovel, McCleod, bow saw, pole saw, loppers, hand pruners, wheelbarrow **Budget: \$ 500**

2009 Budget Requirement:

Urban Trails and Greenway Strategy	\$ 50,000
2009 Construction Projects	\$ 70,000
2009 Sign Project “ <i>Well Signed in 09</i> ”	\$ 11,000
2009 Greenways Launch Program	\$ 3,500
2009 Planning Priorities	\$ 15,000
2009 Greenways Tool Request	\$ 500
Total	\$150,000

Potential revenue sources:

Local Motion Grant (Park Hill)	\$ 12,500
Shuswap Trail Alliance (Park Hill)	\$ 12,500
- facilitation/planning	\$ 5,000
Greenways - volunteer/in-kind	\$ 5,000
City of Salmon Arm	\$ 75,000
Service/Community - financial	\$ 35,000
- volunteer/in-kind	\$ 5,000
Total	\$150,000