

2018 City highlights

December 2018

In 2018, the City delivered on key initiatives, projects and strategies aligned with Council priorities to support our growing community and ensure Kelowna continues to be a great place to live, work and play.



Council endorsed [Imagine Kelowna](#) — a vision by our community, for the community — after more than two years of public engagement in the largest city conversation ever.

The vision positions Kelowna for a future that puts people first, values its history, encourages curiosity and creativity, and recognizes the changing roles of individuals, businesses, government and community.

It sets the stage for the City's strategies to 2040 including: the Official Community Plan, Transportation Master Plan, Cultural Master Plan and Intelligent City Strategy.



Issued 2,444 [building permits](#) with a construction value of \$861M (* as of Nov. 30, 2018)

Completed pedestrian and landscape improvements in downtown's centrally located Kerry Park around the new Tourism Kelowna building

Bolstered the City's public art offerings with the new 'From Within' sculpture at the Karis Women's Support Society housing and the 'The Valley' sculpture installation outside of the Library Parkade



Partnered with senior levels of government to [build John Hindle Drive](#), providing a new route to UBC Okanagan and Kelowna Airport. The City also built a multi-use overpass helping pedestrians and cyclists get to campus safely

As part of the Inter-Jurisdictional Development Team, completed construction of the 49.5 km regional [Okanagan Rail Trail](#). Residents and visitors can connect from downtown to mid-town, UBC Okanagan and the airport via a paved, separated multi-use trail

Partnered with Dropbike for a [pilot bike share program](#), that saw 32,000 rides in the first three months

Collaborated with BC Transit to implement Automated Vehicle Locator real-time tracking. Users can use mobile devices to see the location of their bus along its route and predicted arrival time

Completed Phase 2 construction to [open the Rutland Transit Exchange](#) for full service and extension of Shepherd Road to improve connectivity and increase access for pedestrians, cyclists and transit users in the Rutland Town Centre

In partnership with senior government, re-aligned Rutland Rd N to align with Acland Rd intersecting Old Vernon Rd via a new roundabout as part of the Province-led Hwy 97 six-laning project

Planning for our future, launched the *Regional Transportation Master Plan: Connecting our Region* and also the development of the [Transportation Master Plan: Our Kelowna as we Move](#)



Catalyst for business

Amended [zoning bylaws relating to production and retail sales of non-medical cannabis](#) and developed application requirements, process and a scoring matrix for new cannabis businesses in Kelowna. We received 41 rezoning application submissions in the first intake

Exceeded YLW growth projections with 2M passengers passing through its doors in 2018

Expanded the [City's dark fibre offering](#) with the installation of an additional 23km that connects the Airport and UBC Okanagan in the north, Okanagan College, hospital, and city infrastructure in the south to the central city core

Ratified a lease agreement with Tourism Kelowna to allow for the development of a visitor information centre in a location that capitalizes on visitor trends in our community and reflects best practices in tourism development

Provided approximately \$650,000 in community development grants to support social development, arts, culture, heritage, and sport organizations, individuals and events in the community

Named the top place in British Columbia to open a small business by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business which noted the City's policy framework as a facilitator



Addressing homelessness

Developed and endorsed the [Journey Home Strategy](#) as a housing-first, five-year action plan to support an estimated 2,100 people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness in our community by 2024. Together with a community task force, the City facilitated the collaboration of more than 50 community and

government partners. The strategy will see the addition of 300 new supportive housing units, 500 program spaces and a backbone organization to ensure that everyone has a place to call home

Increased supportive housing zoning and encouraged BC Housing to facilitate the building of 88 new supportive housing units opening this fall and winter



Healthy, safe active & inclusive community

Launched the update to the [Official Community Plan, Kelowna 2040: Our Kelowna as we Grow](#) which will set the vision, strategies and objectives for 20 years of growth

Increased public lakefront park access in the Mission with the acquisition of a 0.89-acre future park property on Hobson Road and opened the interim access to the popular 1-hectare Bluebird Beach Park Upgraded the popular Boyce-Gyro Beach Park with 126 permanent parking stalls and the installation of new volleyball courts and table tennis

Opened the spectacular [27km Kelowna Paddle Trail](#) on Okanagan Lake from Bertram Park to McKinley Beach as the newest Active by Nature route

Completed the first phase of construction of Rowcliffe Park, at Central Green, featuring a large accessible playground

Celebrated Park & Play's 10th anniversary, offering free family fun at 48 City parks throughout the Summer season

Awarded nine Neighbourhood Grants (nearly \$8,000) for resident-led enhancements to the areas they live in, and supported 18 neighbourhood events that saw more than 1,100 participants come together as part of the [Strong Neighbourhood program](#)



Housing diversity

Developed and endorsed the [Healthy Housing Strategy](#): a five-year, 19-action item plan towards diverse, affordable and attainable housing

Endorsed the development of Central Green – a residential master-planned community – to build up an urban residential centre close to downtown. The land, previously owned by the City of Kelowna, was sold to support the development of increased rental and multi-unit family housing. It adds more than 115 affordable and supportive housing units in Kelowna

Encouraged the development of 302 rental units through the Rental Housing Grants program, which was increased to \$420,000 in 2018

Partnered with BC Housing to bring more than 300 affordable housing rental units to Kelowna in the near future

Continued to prioritize multi-unit developments with 1,761 multi-unit building permits issued in comparison to the 671 single-detached permits issued



Public safety

Increased safety resources with the addition of 12 new firefighters, four RCMP officers and five Police Services support staff

Converted Fire Station No.8 to a career and paid-on-call fire station to improve the emergency response time to the Glenmore and Northern areas of the city. In addition, completed a \$500,000 upgrade to the fire dispatch system

[Hired former Supt. Bill McKinnon as a safety consultant](#) to work with senior levels of government, social service agencies and community organizations to [develop recommendations](#) on how to move

forward with addressing the complexities of the public safety landscape

Implemented an updated needle pick-up program with a single point of contact for the public to report a found needle or needles in public spaces or outside private residences by calling 250-469-8801

Increased bylaw and RCMP foot patrols downtown

Updated City ammonia plants and operating procedures in arenas in compliance with new safety standards

Continued to demonstrate strength, adaptability and resiliency through freshet flooding and regional fire emergencies



Clean drinking water

Broke ground on the [\\$86M Kelowna Integrated Water Phase 1 project](#) to integrate the South East Kelowna Irrigation District (SEKID) and deliver agriculture water to South Mission

Secured an additional \$12M provincial grant for Phase 2 of the Integrated Water project, building on the \$43.9M previously received in 2017 for Phase 1

Developed the Source Water Protection Plan for the City's four lake water intakes and worked on the development of a broader separate plan with the Okanagan Basin Water Board



Preserve agriculture land

Launched a review of the newly acquired SEKID irrigation system assets to assure long term sustainability of the agricultural water system

Completed policy and regulation updates to implement the Agriculture Plan to provide clear and transparent land use direction



Strong financial management

Launched [Online Billing for City Property Tax](#) accounts – providing residents online access to their account and the ability to manage City tax and utility billing accounts in one easy location

Retrofitted 10,000 street lights to LED light bulbs which will result in nearly \$13M in cost savings over the next 15 years

Funded City projects and services for 2018 from a variety of sources, with 74 per cent coming from sources other than taxation



A well-run City

Hired a new City Manager: Doug Gilchrist has stepped into the role of leading the City’s administration and the delivery of City programs, services and infrastructure for Kelowna to be the best mid-sized City in North America

Administered the 2018 General Local Election which saw 32,151 voters cast their vote in Kelowna over six days of voting and 24 opportunities, including special and mail ballot voting



Awards & recognition

Government Finance Officers Association
Distinguished Budget Award for the
2018 Financial Plan

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Top place in British Columbia to open a small
business in 2018 by the Canadian Federation of
Independent Business

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Public Works Association of British Columbia 2018
Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award

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Municipal Insurance Association of British Columbia
Excellence in Risk Management Award for bringing
independent accreditation (quality assurance) to
the Development Services Department

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WorksafeBC Certificate of Recognition
earning an annual premium rebate of \$190k

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Intelligent Community Forum
2018 Smart21 Communities

View the [2018 by the numbers infographic](#) (PDF)

