

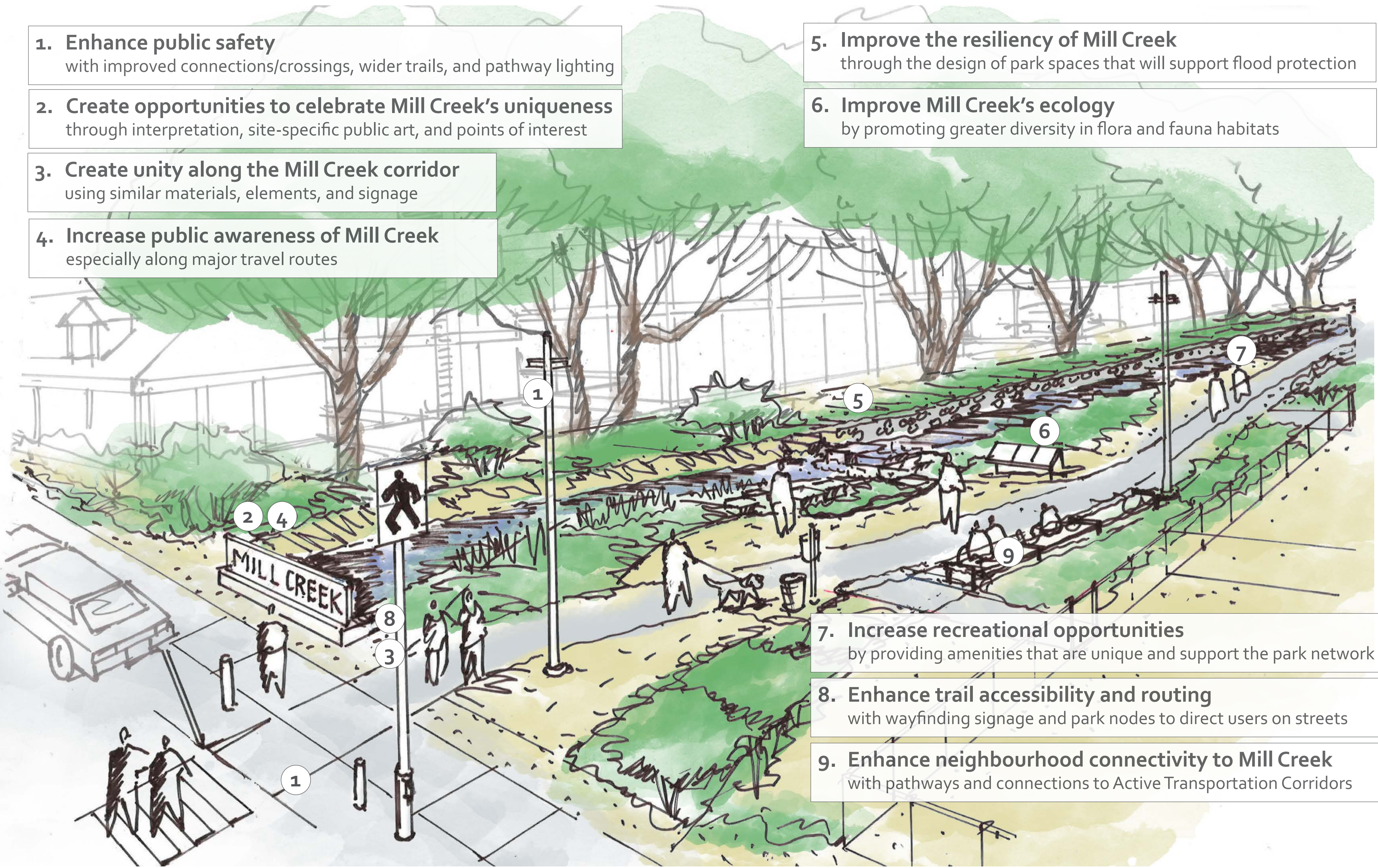
Mill Creek Linear Park Master Plan

The City is developing an overall strategy to improve Mill Creek as a linear park that complements ongoing work to enhance sensitive ecosystem habitats and flood resilience efforts along the creek.

Design Strategies

The Master Plan will recommend various design strategies along the corridor to help achieve the park’s vision and core values over time.

Wherever possible, the Master Plan will aim to:

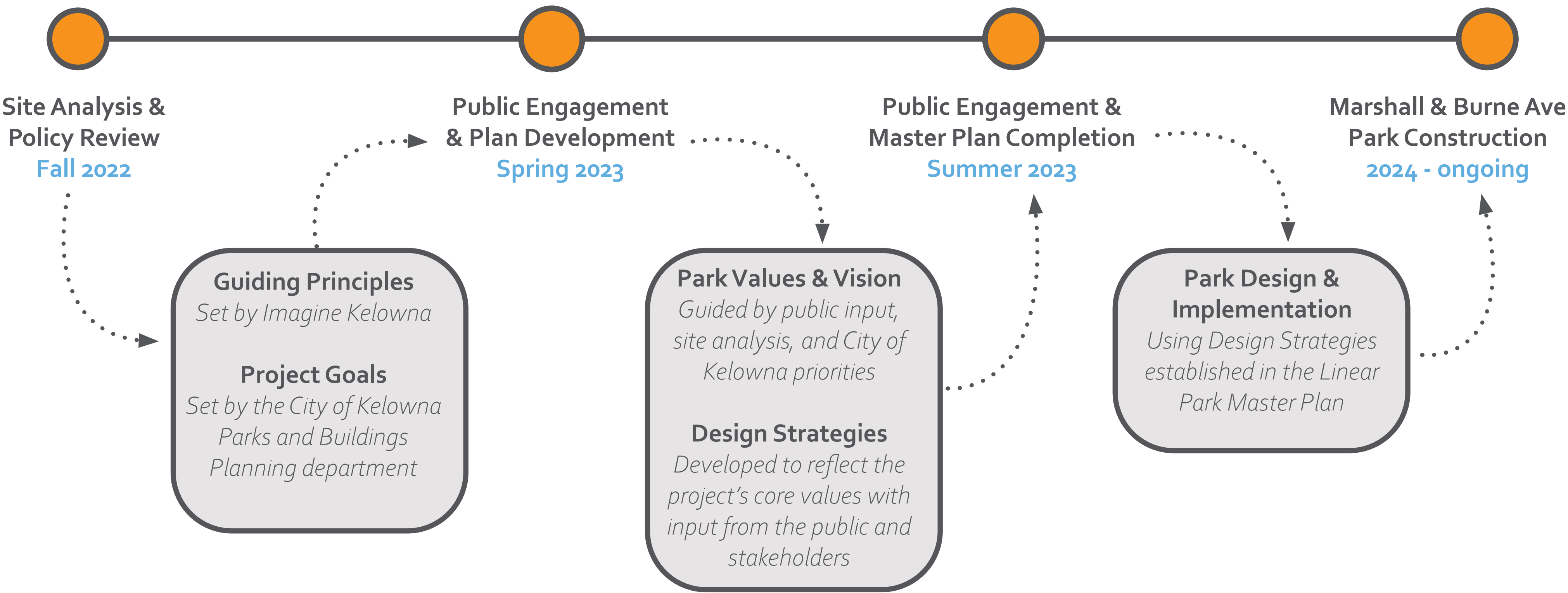


Project Overview

Mill Creek Linear Park Master Plan

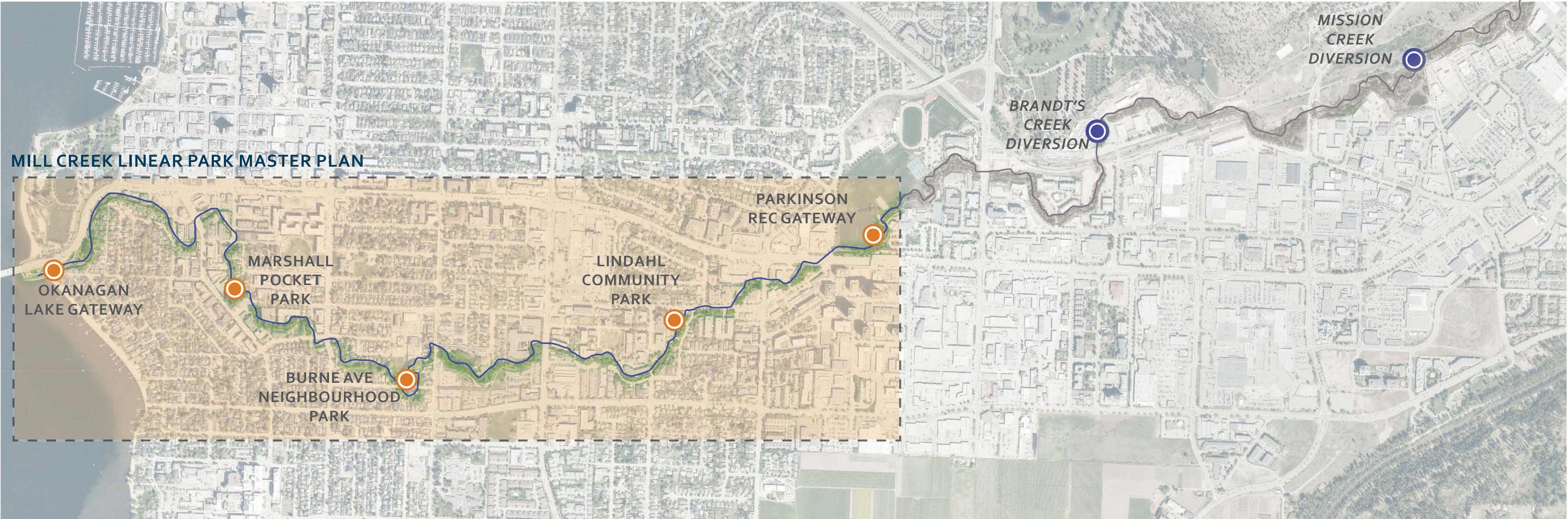
Timeline & Project Process

Using input from public and stakeholder engagement, the City aims to complete the Mill Creek Linear Park Master Plan in 2023.



Park Context

In relation to other projects along Mill Creek



Mill Creek Linear Park Master Plan

Open House

March 16, 2023



What is the Mill Creek Linear Park?

Mill Creek Linear Park Master Plan

A one-of-a-kind park system that will provide opportunities for low-impact recreation, ecological enhancement, and cultural celebration not possible elsewhere in Kelowna.

What makes this park unique?

- Creek daylighting and restoration efforts

Enhancing the riparian area increases area of the ecosystem and provides flood mitigation during the spring freshet.

- Ecological value

This riparian habitat is rare in Kelowna’s downtown, and provides important ecosystem services.

- A rich heritage

Daylighting the creek provides opportunities to celebrate its natural and cultural heritage that spans thousands of years, as well as the recent history of Kelowna’s diverse neighbourhoods.

- Nature in the city

This linear park offers residents a chance to walk to nature in the heart of Kelowna’s urbanized areas.

- Connecting park spaces

There are plans for new parks to be built along the creek to support residents of this developing area.



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Project Values

Mill Creek Linear Park Master Plan

Six core values have been developed for the Master Plan based on previous planning work over the past 20 years. These will provide direction for Master Plan recommendations.



Safety

Ensure the linear park has open sight lines, is well lit, and maintained so users and residents feel safe.



Ecology

Protect and enhance the creek ecosystem, while balancing the accommodation of public access.



Connections

Provide links between various parks and neighbourhoods to help bridge connections and build community.



Accessibility

Consider the needs of various user groups to provide access that is inclusive for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.



Recreation

Provide opportunities to escape the urban environment and enjoy nature with low-impact activities such as walking, jogging, and communing with neighbours.



Identity

Celebrate the creek and the character of surrounding neighbourhoods through unique features and experiences.



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Linear Park Extent

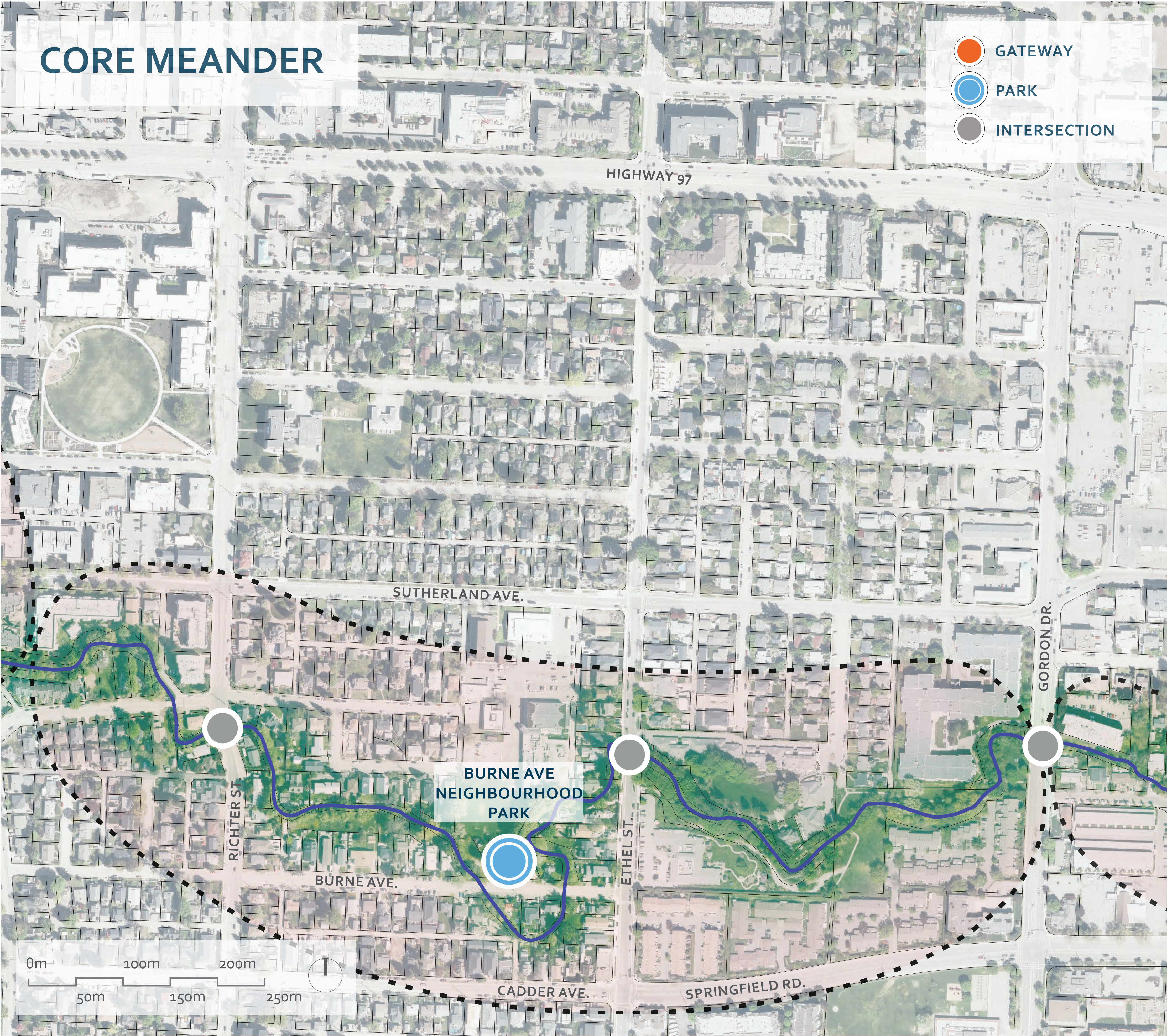
Mill Creek Linear Park Master Plan

The extent of the Mill Creek Linear Park stretches for about **5 kilometres** between two gateways: the Okanagan Lake Gateway south of City Park and the Parkinson Recreation Centre. It includes trails, riparian areas, and several existing and future parks, including Burne Avenue Neighbourhood Park.



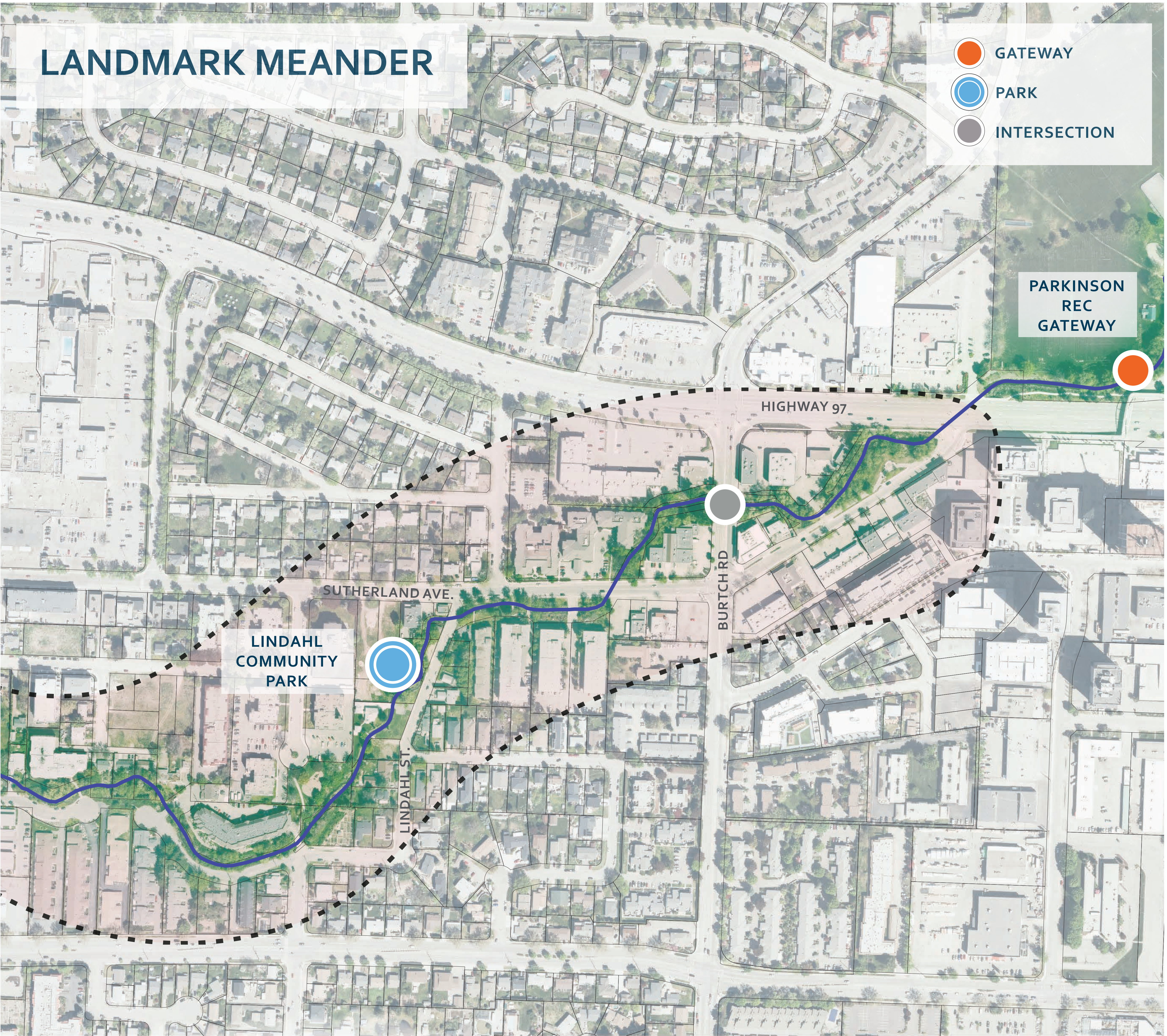
Linear Park Extent

Mill Creek Linear Park Master Plan



Linear Park Extent

Mill Creek Linear Park Master Plan



Burne Avenue Park

Mill Creek Linear Park Master Plan

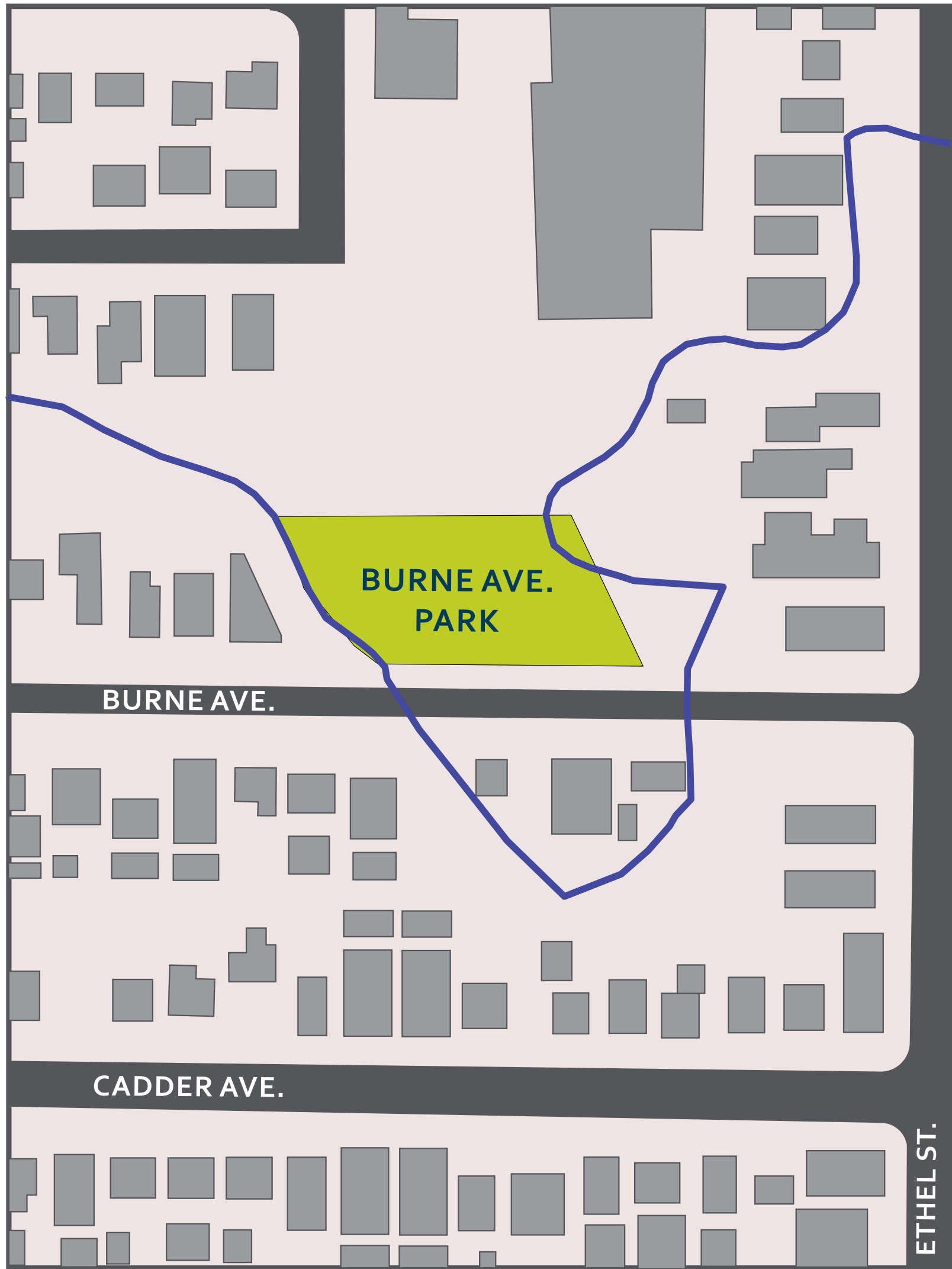
The City has acquired funding for improvements to Burne Avenue Park with construction expected to begin in 2024.

Community members will have the opportunity to provide input on Burne Avenue Park and other parks in the corridor at on-site workshops in April!

Get Involved

Visit getinvolved.kelowna.ca to:

- Register for workshops (April 19, 20)
- Share ideas, opportunities and challenges related to the project
- Stay up to date on the Mill Creek Linear Park Master Plan



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Mill Creek Flood Protection Project

The Mill Creek Flood Protection Project is a multi-year, multi-million dollar initiative to improve the creek corridor and reduce flooding potential throughout the City, from the Kelowna Airport to Okanagan Lake. Planning and construction began in 2020.

Project funding

The City received a \$22 million federal government grant in 2019 to help cover the \$55 million cost of improvements along Mill Creek. It is funded in part by the Government of Canada through the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund.

Project objectives

The project will improve creek capacity by rehabilitating creek riverbanks, improve riparian and fish passage, reduce debris accumulation, and add temporary off-stream storage opportunities.



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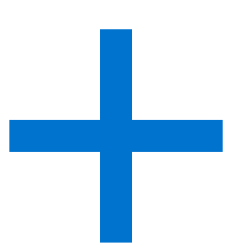
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Diversion Upgrades

Mill Creek Flood Protection Project

Mill Creek is prone to freshet flooding in the spring. The diversion has been upgraded to meet the higher flow requirements due to climate change, redirecting a portion of flood flows to Mission Creek via a concrete box culvert. The project goals include hydraulic improvements and slowing of water, function automation, permanent flow monitoring. Together, this will:

 Improve public and staff safety around the structure

 Reduce likelihood of debris blockage and flooding

 Allow better passage for fish



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Completed work

Mill Creek Flood Protection Project

Mill Creek Diversion – Phase 1

The diversion has been upgraded to effectively divert licensed flows. Improvements to this structure allow for better debris management, improved operational safety and better fish passage.



Old Vernon Road – North of Airport

This involved the replacement of wooden bridge with an arch culvert. The new bridge is fish-friendly, has capacity beyond 200-year events, and is resistant to debris blockages.



Did you know?

The City is working to restore Mill Creek riparian conditions. The Okanagan Nation Alliance has provided assessments and design criteria to improve fish spawning and fish passage in the creek.



Adding glides, riffles, pools and tree cover will improve Kokanee and Sockeye spawning opportunities.

Current/future work

2023 and beyond

Mill Creek Diversion – Phase 2

This phase includes earthworks necessary for flood waters to rise safely to a pool two meters higher than is possible today. This involves building new dykes, raising the Okanagan Rail Trail and improving security around the structure.

Water Street Lift Station

Routing wastewater from Downtown south to the Raymer Wastewater Treatment Plant, the City’s newest and largest sewage lift station will be setback further from Mill Creek and will facilitate continued growth downtown.

Millbridge Park Pedestrian Bridge

A surplus bridge from a local business will be used as temporary crossing within the city pedestrian network until a permanent bridge is installed.



Additional projects

- **Marshall St** | Creek widening and berm installation
- **Burne Ave** | Creek Widening and berm installation