

How does the Agricultural Land Reserve affect Glenmore Recreation Park?

Glenmore Recreation Park lies within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) of British Columbia. The purpose of the ALR is to protect farmland and farming throughout BC. However, under certain conditions, the Provincial Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) can provide approval for alternate uses within the ALR. The City of Kelowna, working together with the ALC from 2009 through to 2011, established the conditions under which the Glenmore Recreation Park site could be used as a park. In 2016, the ALC approved the current Master Plan that guides park development today.

As part of the 2011 approval, the City made a commitment to a series of conditions that support farming in the Glenmore area, and the City as a whole. These conditions included:

1. Providing a fence and landscape buffer between the park and neighbouring farms.
2. Selling land that had been reserved for a road, but was no longer needed for road, through North Glenmore to neighbouring farmers, to consolidate with their existing farms.
3. Removing the ball diamonds on Scenic Road, installing fencing and leasing the land for agriculture.
4. Relocating the Fire Hall on Scenic Road and returning the land to an agricultural standard.

The ALC approval also included the 2016 Master Plan that established parameters for elements of the park. This included limits to elements such as hard surfaces and structures, including:

1. An amenity building of approximately 1,200 sq. m. (13,000 sq. ft.), with the option of a second storey.
2. A field house of approximately 350 sq. m., (3800 sq. ft.).
3. A parking lot of 203 parking spaces.

Any significant diversions from these parameters would require further approval from the ALC.

A key part of the 2023 work plan is an assessment and design for the restoration of the landscape buffer along the active farms adjacent to the park.