

ADMINISTRATION UPDATES

MAY 12, 2025 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Receipt of an OBWB Grant

Further to Council's February 10, 2025 resolution, the application to the Okanagan Basin Water Board's Water Conservation and Quality Improvement grant was successful and awarded \$10,000 in funding to support the Polson Park Hydrogeology and Data Analysis study project.

Staff Resourcing for Efficient Environmental Permitting

At the Committee of the Whole meeting on January 27, 2025, Council raised a concern relating to the OCP Update for Environmental Mapping & Natural Asset Inventory. The concern related to how Administration would manage possible increased work load due to the additional information provided with the update to the environmental mapping. To clarify, the update is not intended to increase work load, but rather aide in streamlining and increasing clarity for applicants and developers in their review of applications. This is achieved through the availability of more current and accurate environmental information for property owners, their consultants and Administration to utilize. This will modernize the environmental policies for City of Vernon to be at the same level as other municipalities throughout the Okanagan, so developers and consultants can expect the same process by providing consistency across jurisdictions.

33rd Street Sidewalk (Project 2024-22)

Construction of the missing sidewalk section on the east side of 33rd Street, between 37th Avenue and 38th Avenue, is complete. A short segment on 38th Avenue between the newly constructed sidewalk and the Fibro building will be constructed by the Public Works department during the 2025 construction season.

25th Avenue and 34th Street Intersection Improvements (Project 2024-21)

The safety upgrade to the southbound right turn lane from 34th Street onto westbound 25th Avenue is nearing completion. The remaining item is the green bike lane marking, which will be completed after resurfacing as part of the City's pavement program. The timeframe for the resurfacing is not yet known.

Multi-Use Pathway (MUP) Connection on 46th Avenue and Pleasant Valley Road (Project 2024-23)

The second phase of constructing a new Multi-Use Path (MUP) to connect the MUP on 20th Street to the existing MUP on Pleasant Valley Road is now complete and open. Phase II involved building the MUP along Pleasant Valley Road and upgrading the signal at the crossing of Pleasant Valley Road to connect to the 46th Avenue MUP, which was finished during Phase I in 2024.

23rd Street Sidewalk (Project 2024-22)

Construction of a sidewalk on the east side of 23rd Street, between 45th Avenue and the existing sidewalk just north of 46th Avenue, is set to begin after tree trimming and a small aerial right-of-way is acquired across private property.

Silver Star Road Crosswalk (Project 2025-26)

At their Regular Meeting of April 28, 2025, Council inquired about the Silver Star Road crosswalk. The project is in the early design phase. Additional information was needed to determine turning movements at the intersection and update pedestrian and traffic counts. The data was collected in early April and is currently being reviewed to determine the safest and most convenient location for the crosswalk.

OPERATION SERVICES

Rock Slope Stabilization (Project 2025-08)

The project commenced on May 1, 2025, at Crosby Road, with work scheduled from Monday to Saturday, 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM. After completing work on Crosby Road, the contractor will move to sites on Eastside Road (9483 Eastside Road towards the Outback), tentatively scheduled for late May and early June. To ensure public safety, there will be rotating 30-minute maximum road closures on Eastside Road during the scaling and excavation process. Residents directly affected by the project have been notified and encouraged to plan their trips outside of construction hours when possible. The overall project, including sites in the Foothills neighborhood, is expected to be completed by fall 2025.

Okanagan Landing Sanitary Sewer Municipal Fee (Project 2025-18)

The current 2025 project is located at Klinger Road. The horizontal directional drilling of the sewer collector pipe has been completed. The remaining work, including the installation of manholes and paving, will be carried out by City crews and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2025.

Building Facility Renewal – City Hall HVAC Controls Renewal Project (Project 2025-01)

The contract to provide and install new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) controls for City Hall buildings is in the process of being awarded. Work is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2025. This project will improve the reliability of the HVAC systems in City Hall and RCMP buildings.

Valleyview Place to Commonage Trail (Project 2021-30)

Construction started on May 5, 2025, and is scheduled to be completed by summer 2025.

Force Main Replacement – Cummins Lift Station to Okanagan Landing Road (Project 2024-14)

The horizontally directionally drilled section of the pipe is complete. The remaining work, including the installation of air valves and the tie-in of the new force main, is scheduled to be completed by summer 2025.

Boat Launch Survey

A survey will be available starting May 7 for individuals who purchase boat launch passes at both Vernon City Hall and the District of Coldstream. An online version will also be available to people at engagevernon.ca/boatlaunch for the length of the boating season. The feedback provided will help improve the boat launch facilities and guide future decisions at the two locations; Paddlewheel and Kalavista boat launches.

FIRE RESCUE SERVICES

Forest Enhancement Society BC, Wildfire Risk Reduction Project (Eastside Rd.)

Further to the Administration update received by Council during their November 25, 2024 meeting, the Ellison Wildfire Risk Reduction Project has received an additional \$300,000 in funding from the Forest Enhancement Society of BC. This funding supports continued wildfire risk reduction work in the area. The continued fuel treatment work includes thinning, pruning, chipping and pile burning and/or other initiatives outlined in the prescription by the Registered Professional Forester.

Phase one of the project commenced in August of 2023 with the treatment of 15.8 ha which is now complete. This project, now in Phase two, will treat an additional 26.3 ha towards the total project completion of approximately 71.4 treated ha.

Ellison project achievements to date:

Status	Area	Percentage of Total Area
Treatments 100% complete, including debris removal	3.1 ha	4 %
Treatments mostly complete, pile burning remaining	12.7 ha	18 %
Treatments partially complete, thinning & pruning complete	12.0 ha	17 %
Funding secured, treatments not initiated	14.3 ha	20 %
Prescriptions approved, treatment funding not secured	29.3 ha	41 %
Total	71.4 ha	