

ADMINISTRATION UPDATES

FEBRUARY 23, 2026 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

New Online Engagement Platform

The City has launched a new online engagement site, Let's Talk Vernon (letstalkvernon.ca), replacing engagevernon.ca. The platform gives residents more ways to share ideas and feedback and provides better tools to gather meaningful input.

This platform upgrade was completed within the current budget.

Digitization of Event Planning and Facility Booking Services

The City has refreshed the Event Planning and Facility Booking sections of the City website to make it easier for residents and organizations to access these services. The updates simplify navigation, streamline content, and modernize online forms.

Booking forms are now clearly linked to each facility, allowing faster and easier submissions. All updates were completed within the existing budget at no additional cost. The updated sections can be accessed at vernon.ca/eventplanning.

These changes are an important step in digitizing City services and improving accessibility for the community.

City of Vernon Map

A new [City of Vernon Map](#) is now live, providing easier access to City services, amenities, property info, and public service details. The map is more responsive and intuitive, supporting transparency and better connection to City programs.

The City will continue maintaining the North Okanagan Map until the Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO) launches its updated regional platform. At that point, the North Okanagan Map will be phased out in coordination with the RDNO.

Priority Drainage Improvements – Smith Creek (2025-02)

Directional drilling for the new storm main in Smith Creek is complete and the storm main has been installed. Final earthworks are scheduled for completion by the end of February 2026, with final paving to follow in Spring 2026.

Fire Rescue Services – Fuel Management

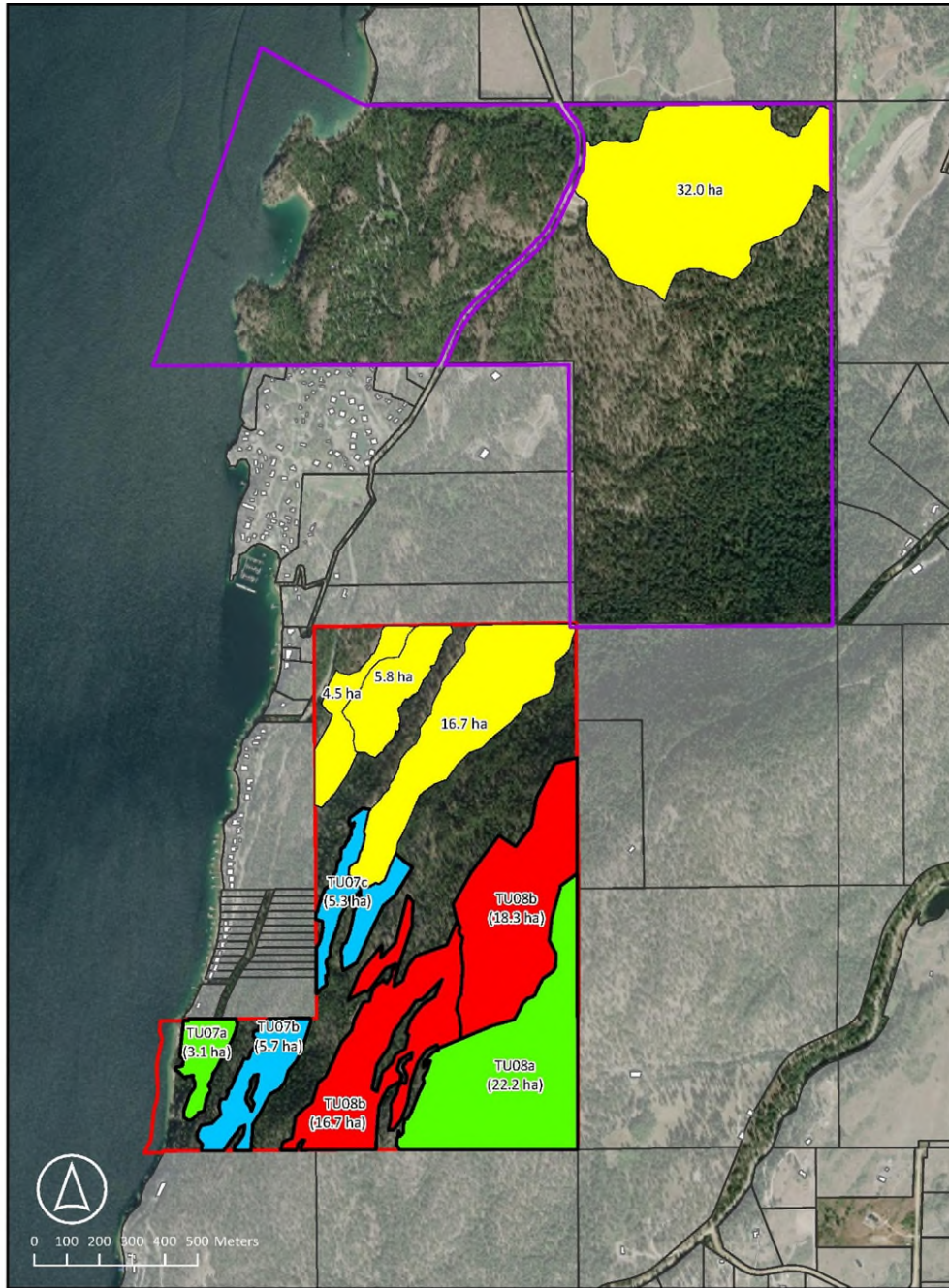
The Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) has approved the final funding required to complete fuel management treatments under the WR0002179 – Vernon – WRR Ellison TU8 project. This \$125,000 investment will support treatment of units TU07b and TU07c, bringing the total area treated on Crown land to 72 hectares. Fuel reduction work on this project began in 2023, and these final units will be completed by Nakimu Ventures Inc. no later than March 31, 2027. Please see the map for context.

The City applied to FESBC to support fuel management on these Crown lands as part of our efforts to reduce wildfire risk in one of the higher risk wildland–urban interface areas identified in the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan. This project counteracts and strengthens other recent initiatives in the area, including BC Timber Sales 2021 clearcuts and BC Parks hand treatments completed in 2022. Together, these projects have successfully reduced wildfire risk across the landscape.

As a result of the treatments, fire behaviour in these areas is expected to be less aggressive, with fire more likely to remain on the ground where suppression efforts are effective. The work has also created anchor points and safer operational areas to support fire suppression and improve firefighter safety.

The photos below, taken 11 months apart, illustrate the noticeable changes in fuel loading and overall landscape condition achieved through this work.





Vernon - Ellison/Eastside Road - Wildfire Risk Reduction
Fuel Management Prescription Map

Ellison Unit 08

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- Private Land (PMBC)
- Building Footprints
- Progress**
- Complete
- Inactive - Prescription Approved
- Operational - Pile Burning
- Operational - Thinning / Pruning
- Ellison Provincial Park
- Previously Completed WRR Treatments