

## Kalmo Beach 10 Year Plan

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Recommended by:	General Manager of Community Development

## Report Summary

This report provides information regarding a response to Council's direction to develop a 10-year plan for Kalmo Beach which incorporates community input and accessibility requirements.

## Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP)

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan in the area of Quality of Life and Place as it aligns with the Population Health Priorities of Families, Play Opportunities and Age Friendly Strategy. The Kalmo Beach 10-Year Plan provides a guide for future improvements to the facility which will enhance user experience for families, youth and older adults. The report also includes considerations for "green" recreation amenities, with capital investments following CEEP guidelines. The Kalmo Beach 10 Year Plan addresses the City's Community Energy & Emissions Plan in the following areas:

- Goal 3: Retrofit existing buildings using Passive House energy efficiency standards to achieve a minimum of 50% increase energy efficiency
- Goal 8: Assist in achieving 35% active mobility transportation mode through the creation of bike lanes
- Goal 18: Creation of Green space and urban forestry requirements for community spaces that have carbon sequestration capacity Participate in the reforestation effort of Sudbury by replanting native species along shoreline

## Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## Background

### About Kalmo Beach

Kalmo Beach plays an integral role in the identity of Sudbury's Valley East community. Formerly known as "Sandy Beach" by local residents, it provides numerous outdoor recreation opportunities that reflect the community's fundamental values and commitment to "outdoor living".

Located on the north shore of Whitson Lake in Blezard Township, near the town of Val Caron, Kalmo Beach is comprised of approximately 12.9 hectares and sits within the Vermillion River Watershed. Whitson Lake feeds several tributaries and the water level in the lake can fluctuate up to one metre. Much of the shoreline

of this park is within the Nickle District Conservation Area's regulation area.

Potential developments for Kalmo Beach were previously identified in the Valley East Secondary plan, published in 2000. The basic objective outlined is the continued development of Kalmo Beach as a public waterfront park for residents as well as tourists. Suggested improvements mentioned in 2000 included the redevelopment of the day park area, and additions of the following: campground/RV park, activity centers, an outdoor recreation centre, trails, and a water park activity centre for children.

### **Current Service Level & Utilization – Beaches**

The City of Greater Sudbury (City) provides a supervised waterfront service at the following locations:

- Bell Park Main Beach
- Capreol Public Beach
- Centennial Park\*
- Kalmo Beach
- Moonlight Beach
- Nepawhin Lake Park
- Whitewater Lake Park

\*Interim location servicing Walden area following the disposition of Meatbird Lake Park.

Lifeguards are on duty at each location seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. between mid-June and the third week of August.

Historical participant (bather) numbers for Kalmo Beach are detailed below. These figures represent the number of bathers using the designated swimming area during guarded hours. They do not include all users of the park or other Kalmo amenities:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Bathers</b>
2018	1953
2019	1624
2020	CGS suspended lifeguard services in 2020.
2021	1659

### **Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan (POSLMP) Implications**

There is no prescribed service level recommended for waterfront areas in the City's Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan (POSLMP). The POSLMP notes that the City's supervised beaches are generally well distributed and are in proximity to concentrated populations.

The following action item relating to beaches is included with the POSLMP:

Continue to maintain municipally supervised beaches and to ensure that beach access routes meet or exceed the technical requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. Additional public engagement should be undertaken to determine possible areas for improvement to beach areas.

### **Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and Beach Routes**

The Government of Ontario's Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, also known as the AODA, established accessibility standards that address key areas of daily living. The AODA Design of Public Spaces Standard, covers the following areas:

- Recreational trails
- Beach access routes
- Outdoor public use eating areas
- Outdoor play spaces
- Exterior paths of travel (e.g., sidewalks, walkways)
- Accessible parking

- Obtaining services (e.g., service counters)
- Maintenance

The standard applies to newly constructed and redeveloped beach access routes that an obligated organization intends to maintain, including permanent and temporary routes and temporary routes that are established using manufactured goods, which can be removed for the winter months.

Beach access routes are defined as routes that provide access to recreational areas on public beaches. They can be either permanent or temporary.

Under the AODA Act, new or redeveloped beach access routes must:

- meet minimum clear width (1 m) and height (2.1 m) specifications
- meet a maximum running slope ratio (1:10)
- meet restrictions on the size of surface openings, and orient elongated openings perpendicular to the direction of travel
- provide minimum clear width at its opening (1 m), regardless of entrance design (e.g., gate, bollard, etc.)
- have a firm and stable surface
- where the surface is not constructed (i.e., natural), adhere to a minimum cross slope required for drainage; where the surface area is constructed (i.e., not natural), adhere to specifications on maximum cross slope, bevel ratios at changes in levels, maximum running slope at changes in levels, ramp requirements at changes in levels.

Newly constructed or redeveloped boardwalks and ramps on beach access routes are subject to additional minimum requirements as set out in the AODA Act.

Parks and Recreation Ontario has developed a resource guide titled Pathways to Recreation to guide municipalities and parks and recreation practitioners on public space requirements under the AODA Act. The guide provides general design considerations for new or redeveloped beach routes as follows:

- the types of activities, aside from access to water, in which people will be participating at the beach and which accessibility features will allow those using mobility aids to participate
- the impact of storms and other severe weather on installations and if winter storage will be required
- research the best types of surfaces for the climate and surrounding area

### **Direction to Develop a 10 Year Plan for Kalmo Beach**

At the Community Services Committee meeting of March 18, 2019, the following resolution was passed and subsequently approved by Council:

WHEREAS Kalmo Beach serves as a primary waterfront area for Valley East;

AND WHEREAS there are established Plans for major waterfront areas such as Bell Park (Bell Park Master Plan), Moonlight Beach (East End Ramsey Lake Master Plan) and the Capreol waterfront (Capreol Community Improvement Plan);

AND WHEREAS residents and groups are interested in improving the Kalmo Beach area;

AND WHEREAS no plan currently exists for Kalmo Beach which could guide any work or improvements to that waterfront area;

AND WHEREAS the City of Greater Sudbury Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan recommends that engagement should be undertaken to determine possible areas for improvement to beach areas and to ensure that beach access routes meet or exceed the technical requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians Disabilities Act;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Greater Sudbury directs staff to develop a ten (10) year plan for Kalmo Beach, which would incorporate stakeholder and citizen engagement, and report back to the Community Services Committee by the end of the third quarter of 2019.

J.N. Harvey Landscape Architect was retained to assist with the consultation process, confirm desired programming based on input received and provide a conceptual plan.

## **Community Engagement Summary**

Residents were invited to attend a public consultation session on site at Kalmo Beach on August 15, 2019. The invitation was made through social media, direct mailing in the area, digital billboards at municipal facilities and targeted invitations to stakeholder groups. Approximately 50 individuals attended the in-person consultation session.

Public input was also sought through the City's Over To You platform. There were 294 informed visitors to the OTY with 33 individuals completing the online survey.

Comments received during the onsite consultation and through the online survey were consistent. Requests for redevelopment of existing amenities are listed below in order of priority:

- Parking improvements
- Modify road layout to improve site safety
- Shore front rehabilitation
- Support/ restore wildlife habitat areas
- Increased accessibility of amenities
- Formalize and expand upon existing trails
- Repair/replace existing lifeguard building
- Restoration/improvements to boat launch
- Improved signage
- Maintain "Northern" and community character

Requests for new amenities and services, again in order of priority, included:

- Play structures for children
- Wildlife rehabilitation
- Installation of a gazebo or similar shelter structure
- Creation of new walking trails
- Canteen
- Canoe and kayak rentals
- New waterfront leisure opportunities
- Environmental stewardship

Meetings with the Seniors Advisory Panel and Accessibility Advisory Panels were conducted in June and July of 2020. A preliminary conceptual design was presented to advisory panel members based on the community input received to date. The following is a summary of feedback supplied by both Advisory Panels:

- Recommendation that proposed renovation of existing onsite facilities include a Universal wash/change room.
- Recommendation to link viewing areas with ramps to make slope of Kalmo accessible
- Recommendation that pedestrian connections between various site amenities all be accessible in nature
- Recommendation that the new boardwalks meet correct widths and slope to be compliant with accessibility standards
- The inclusion of rubber matting for the beach so mobility devices can access the water
- That new playground equipment include accessible routes and accessible play features
- That all parking lots provide accessible parking spots
- Inclusion of a bike lane on main roadway accessing Kalmo Beach

- Inclusion of a floating wheelchair
- Provision of sufficient rest areas along pedestrian routes between and at amenities

## **Kalmo Beach 10 Year Plan**

Based on the public consultation and community input received, site analysis and AODA requirements, J.N. Harvey produced a Kalmo Beach Master Plan document (Appendix 'A') to guide future developments and improvements.

The Kalmo Park Master Plan concept is to responsibly guide the development process to create a park that responds to the natural environment as well as creating memorable opportunities for visitors to experience the beauty of Whitson Lake.

The concept for the park proposes new features and maximizes use of existing features. It proposes naturalizing the shoreline to add to the beauty of the park but adds infrastructure so that it will be easier for visitors to access the park and enjoy what it can offer. The plan focuses on:

- Circulation, Parking and Wayfinding
- Addition of Tiered Decking
- A New Vision for the West Beach Area
- Naturalization of Existing Park Areas
- Improved Support Facilities
- A Formalized Trail Network

A visual representation of the proposed enhancements is attached as Appendix 'B'.

## **Next Steps**

The Kalmo Beach 10 Year Plan incorporates community consultation, stakeholder feedback and accessibility requirements into a guiding document for future improvements and enhancements.

The plan will be used to support future Council directed business cases and capital prioritization requests for the park.

## **Resources Cited**

Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan Review (2014)

<https://www.greatersudbury.ca/play/parks-and-playgrounds1/parks-open-space-and-leisure-master-plan-review-2014/>

Accessible Beach Access Routes in Ontario

<https://aoda.ca/accessible-beach-access-routes-in-ontario/>

Pathways to Recreation, Learning about Ontario's Accessibility Standard for the Design of Public Spaces (Parks and Recreation Ontario)

<https://accessibilitycanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Pathways-to-Recreation.pdf>