November 2019

## OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE - PROJECT BACKGROUNDER

The Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen (RDOS) recently launched a project to review and update the Official Community Plan (OCP) for Electoral Area "A" Rural Osoyoos.

The existing OCP for Area "A" was developed in 2004 and last updated in 2008. No substantive policy review took place in 2008, nor did the update include much community engagement.

The OCP establishes policies around development and land use and gives direction to other community plans, including capital plans, transportation strategies and the like. The OCP also ensures that decisions from different RDOS departments (e.g., Public Works, Development Services, Finance) are aligned and working towards a common direction - a thriving and sustainable Rural Osoyoos area.



Recent OCP Update in Electoral Area "F"



# What's an Official Community Plan (OCP)?

An Official Community Plan (OCP) is a planning document that provides policies on a broad range of topics including landuse, transportation, housing, parks and infrastructure. OCPs designate land for specific purposes, such as commercial/retail, residential, park, and industrial.

OCPs help provide a blueprint and map for a community's future. They are created to guide decisions on planning and land use management by establishing a longterm vision, supporting goals and objectives, and policies to achieve them.



## **HOW WILL IT HAPPEN?**

The RDOS is looking to engage with residents, property owners and other stakeholders. We have also brought in an experienced consultant team to help support our staff with this project.

Work started on our project in November and we expect to complete it by fall/winter 2020. The timeline outlines major project components and expected timing.

### WHO'S WORKING ON IT?

The electoral area's Advisory Planning Commission (APC) will be playing an important advisory role on the project. For the OCP, additional community members may become engaged through the APC to help review materials, provide input, and reach out to the community.



Photo by Dennis Sylvester Hurd, CC-by

We are also working with a larger consultant team of community planners and technical staff that includes EcoPlan (www.ecoplan.ca), Arlington Group (www.arlingtongroup.ca), and Associated Environment (EA) consulting Engineers (www.ae.ca).

### **WANT MORE INFORMATION?**

For more information contact the project planner, Christopher Garrish at the RDOS (cgarrish@rdos.bc.ca / 250-490-4101) or visit our project webpage at www.rdos.bc.ca.