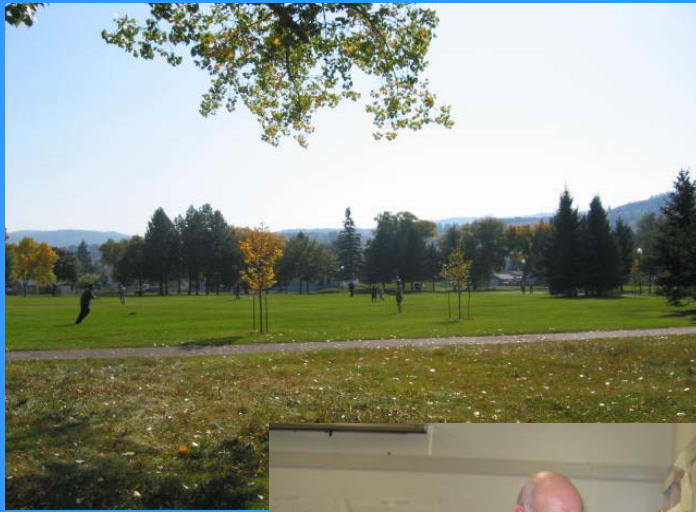




McDonald Park Neighbourhood Plan

Fresh Ideas for an Old Neighbourhood

McDonald Park Planning Team

School of Community and Regional Planning
University of British Columbia

Compiled for the
City of Kamloops



This plan is dedicated to the residents of McDonald Park neighbourhood. Your vision and dedication is reflected in every element of this plan and it is your energy that will make a better neighbourhood possible . You have been a pleasure to learn and work with. Thank you.

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Joe Leong	Patricia Wallace

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McDonald Park Project Coordinator

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	6
Introduction	10
Project Mission	11
Project Process	12
Why Plan a Better Neighbourhood?	13
Overview-McDonald Park Neighbourhood	16
Location	16
History of the Neighbourhood	16
Community Demographics	18
Community Assets	24
Plan Elements	28
Community Identity	29
Neighbourhood Safety	46
Neighbourhood Design and Beautification	66
Implementation Plan	81
Implementation Approach	82
Implementation Strategy	83
Bibliography	86
Contacts	87
Contributors	88
Appendices	
Appendix I McDonald Park Design Charrette Summaries	90
Appendix II Community Assets	94

Figure 1 - Age distribution of the McDonald Park Neighbourhood (Statistics Canada, 2001 Census Data)

Figure 2 - Age distribution of the City of Kamloops (Statistics Canada, 2001 Census Data)

Figure 3 - Ethnic Composition of the McDonald Park Neighbourhood (2001 Census Data)

Figure 5 - Average Household Income (\$) for Kamloops and the McDonald Park Neighbourhood (2001 Census Data)

Figure 6 - Employment and Unemployment Rates (%) for the McDonald Park Neighbourhood and the City of Kamloops (2001 Census Data)

Figure 6 - Proportion of housing rentals versus ownership (2001 Census Data)

Table 1 - Street improvement priorities as expressed by the community and the PQI

Table 2 - McDonald Park Project Paving Priorities

Table 3 - Edge Treatment Priorities in the McDonald Park Neighbourhood

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *McDonald Park Planning Project* is a joint effort between the University of British Columbia's School of Community and Regional Planning and the City of Kamloops. Its mission is to maintain and enhance the McDonald Park Neighbourhood as a liveable and sustainable community. Community consultation existed for the duration of the project, from September 2003 until April 2004. The project will continue through the efforts of the newly established Friends of McDonald Park Community Stewardship Group.

To revitalise Kamloops' oldest neighbourhood, the *McDonald Park Planning Team (MPPT)* created a planning process that would emphasize the importance of community involvement. Immediately after an introductory inventory and analysis of the neighbourhood, the *MPPT* established an Advisory Committee. The committee included residents and local community leaders. The *MPPT* and the Advisory Committee met regularly throughout the course of the project to share information and seek guidance from each other. Near the conclusion of the project, the Advisory Committee established the Friends of McDonald Park to continue community involvement and leadership, to keep the project thriving, and to further enhance the McDonald Park neighbourhood.



Several workshops and open houses were held with the larger community to ensure that the planning team was responsive to the community's needs. The first four months of the project were used to identify the key issues in the neighbourhood. The issues can be summarised into three main groups; safety, beautification, and community identity. These themes—identified by the Advisory Committee and approved by the larger community at an Open House—guided the second portion of the project.

The remainder of the project explored ways of improving the neighbourhood to meet the needs of the community. Through a neighbourhood design charrette, 24 participants translated the visions and goals of the community into physical design improvements. Other exercises allowed community members to assemble a priority list of projects that would move the community towards a more liveable and sustainable future.

Final recommendations of this project are found in the implementation plan. The implementation plan includes detailed information on specific locations, cost and priorities. Some of the recommendations are to:

- **Improve Community Identity and Pride-**
 - the creation of a community stewardship group
 - the focused involvement of the *Communities in Bloom* project
 - enable community events such as farmer's and artist's markets
 - promote community art
 - improve maintenance of rental properties
 - develop community gardens
 - improve park and recreational programming
 - ensure programs exist that are accessible to all groups
- **Improve Neighbourhood Safety-**
 - create a neighbourhood watch group
 - improve lighting
 - increase police presence
 - install traffic calming devices
- **Improve Neighbourhood Design and Beautification-**
 - redesign McDonald Park
 - build the Lilac Avenue-Rivers Trail connector
 - repave certain streets
 - construct innovative street-edge treatments
 - plant street trees
 - hang artistic banners at key locations
 - beautify utility boxes and remove trash bins from street
- **Improve Transportation and Connectivity-**
 - develop safe bicycle routes
 - improve bus-shelter on Lilac Ave.
 - improve pedestrian signage

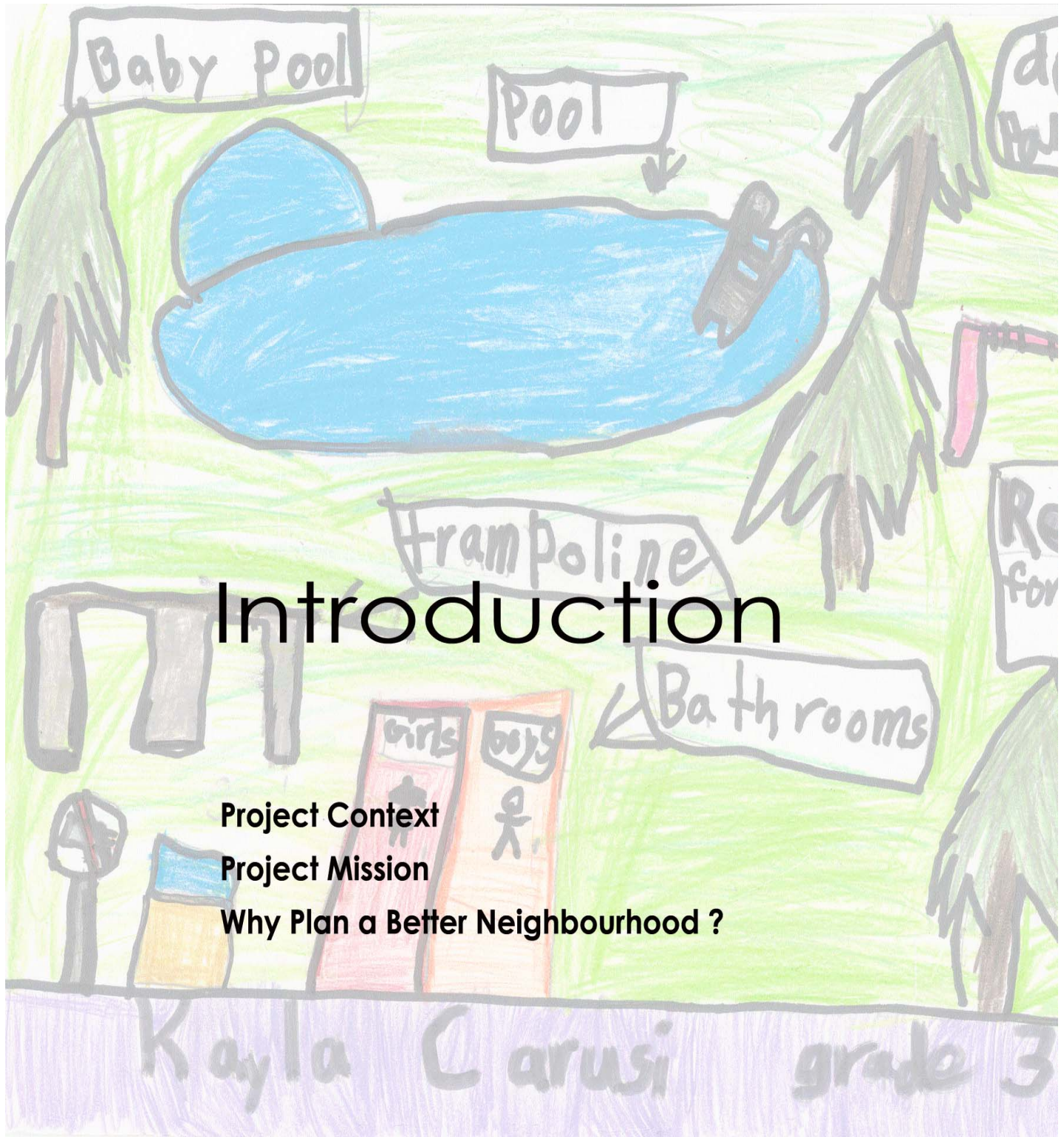
A final component of the project is the *Toolkit of Best Practices in Neighbourhood Planning*. The *Toolkit* acts as a source of practical information which is organized

in three sections; community engagement and capacity building, data gathering and analysis, and neighbourhood design. The ideas and methodologies in the *Toolkit* emphasize the ideals of sustainability and liveability in community planning and reflect the innovative nature of the *McDonald Park Planning Project*.

Lastly, the *MPPT* has created a web page, video, and poster of the planning project. These devices ensure that the work done by the planning team and the community remains accessible and informative throughout the implementation phase, and reflects the quality and breadth of the project.

This project identified and prioritised key improvement opportunities in the McDonald Park Neighbourhood by actively communicating and working with members of the community. It has generated an energy that has led to the formation of a Stewardship Group. It also has created dialogue between community members and city officials, bringing the together to discuss the future needs and direction of the neighbourhood. In an effort to allow this process to continue in Kamloops, the *MPPT* has assembled a *Toolkit of Best Practices in Neighbourhood Planning*. By referencing the *Toolkit*, the City can replicate many of the strengths of this project and become informed of new and innovative methods of neighbourhood planning. This knowledge will allow the City of Kamloops to continue its positive efforts of community building and neighbourhood design through participative planning processes.





Introduction

Project Context

Project Mission

Why Plan a Better Neighbourhood ?

INTRODUCTION

The *McDonald Park Neighbourhood Project* aims to maintain and enhance the liveability and sustainability of the McDonald Park neighbourhood. The Project identifies three priority areas of concern: safety, beautification, and identity, and recommends strategies and a phased implementation strategy to meet these areas. The project document, the *McDonald Park Neighbourhood Plan*, is consistent with *KAMPLAN 1997: A Community Plan for Kamloops*. *KAMPLAN 1997* is a growth management strategy that sets policy and establishes direction to guide Kamloops City Council and the community into the next century.

The *McDonald Park Neighbourhood Plan* is designed in conjunction with a *Toolkit of Best Practices in Neighbourhood Planning* for other neighbourhood revitalization and community-led projects in Kamloops. It provides neighbourhood associations, community leaders, city staff, and others involved in neighbourhoods information about neighbourhood planning, tools to address issues and potential projects. Finally, the *Neighbourhood Plan* provides guidance to those deciding whether or not they want to live or invest in the neighbourhood. It makes a statement about neighbourhood values and expectations.



Mission

To maintain and enhance the McDonald Park Neighbourhood as a liveable and sustainable community within the City of Kamloops.

To encourage a strong sense of community among local residents, businesses and services - local pride and a system of social networks.

To create a visually distinct, bounded and generally agreed upon character for the neighbourhood representing a range of needs, tastes and values.

To maintain a stable and consistent neighbourhood population who have a strong identification with the place.

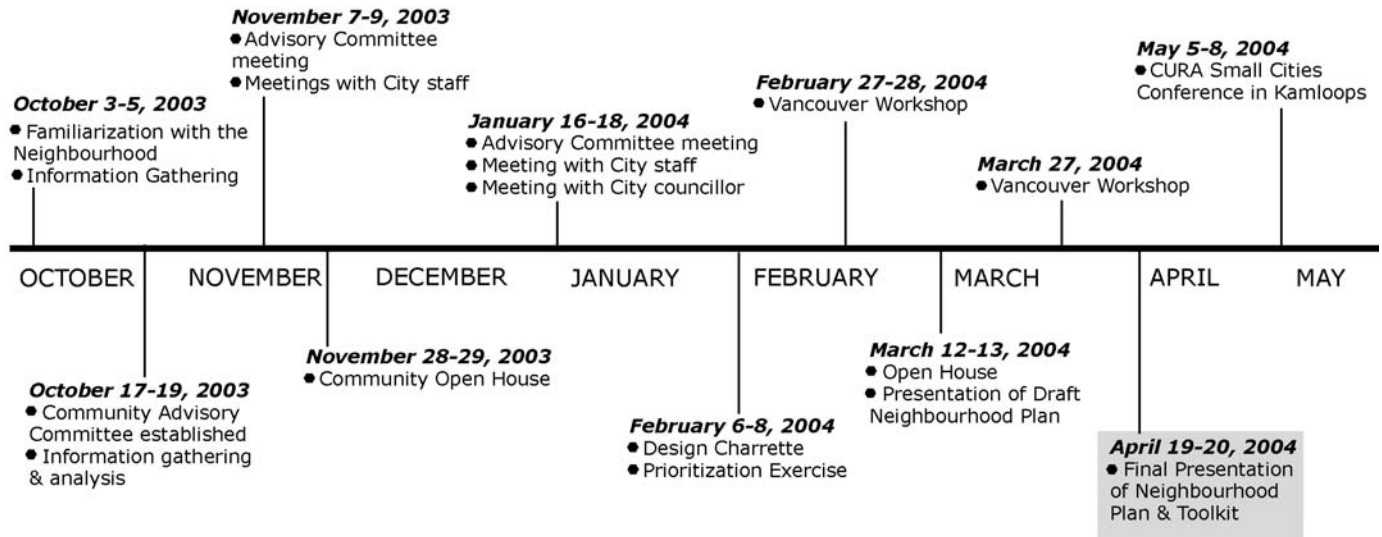
PROJECT CONTEXT

Mayor Mel Rothenburger and Kamloops City Council initiated the *McDonald Park Neighbourhood Project* in 2003 to serve as a pilot project demonstrating methods, tools, and strategies for revitalising Kamloops' older neighbourhoods. Staff from the City's Community Planning Section co-ordinated with the University of British Columbia's School of Community and Regional Planning to use the project as an opportunity for Master's (Planning) students to apply their skills in a practical planning context, while sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm with the City of Kamloops. The *McDonald Park Neighbourhood Project* brings these planning students (the *McDonald Park Planning Team*) and City of Kamloops' staff together with neighbourhood residents in a process that emphasises community participation and leadership.

With assistance from city staff, neighbourhood residents and the *McDonald Park Planning Team* (MPPT) have identified problems, goals, and objectives of the McDonald Park neighbourhood. In the next stage, the residents and the planning team identified strategies and programs to meet these goals and objectives. In the final stage, the planning team developed these strategies into the *McDonald Park Neighbourhood Plan* and *Toolkit of Best Practices in Neighbourhood Planning*.

PROJECT PROCESS

PROJECT TIMELINE



McDONALD PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD PROJECT
Kamloops, British Columbia

McDonald Park Planning Team
University of British Columbia

The McDonald Park planning team believes that strong stakeholder participation incorporating fresh ideas for an old neighbourhood will enhance community pride and help serve as a model for future revitalisation projects. Thus, the strategies contained in the *McDonald Park Neighbourhood Plan* are intended to guide the neighbourhood revitalisation strategy and will help determine what public improvements are made in the neighbourhood.

WHY PLAN A BETTER NEIGHBOURHOOD HERE?

McDonald Park residents are concerned about the quality and the character of their neighbourhood. The concern is that various forces, both internal and external, are threatening the character and the history of this community. Examples of these forces include crime and prostitution (an external force) and the lack of community ownership (an internal force). Household ownership is also an issue, as residents in the neighbourhood are more likely to rent than the Kamloops' average. Residents of the McDonald Park neighbourhood consider this to be a major barrier to a sense of pride and ownership in the community. The value of homes is below the regional average, as are rents. There is also a poor connection with the neighbouring commercial district on Tranquille Road, which has experienced a loss of commercial establishments and an increase in commercial vacancies in recent years.

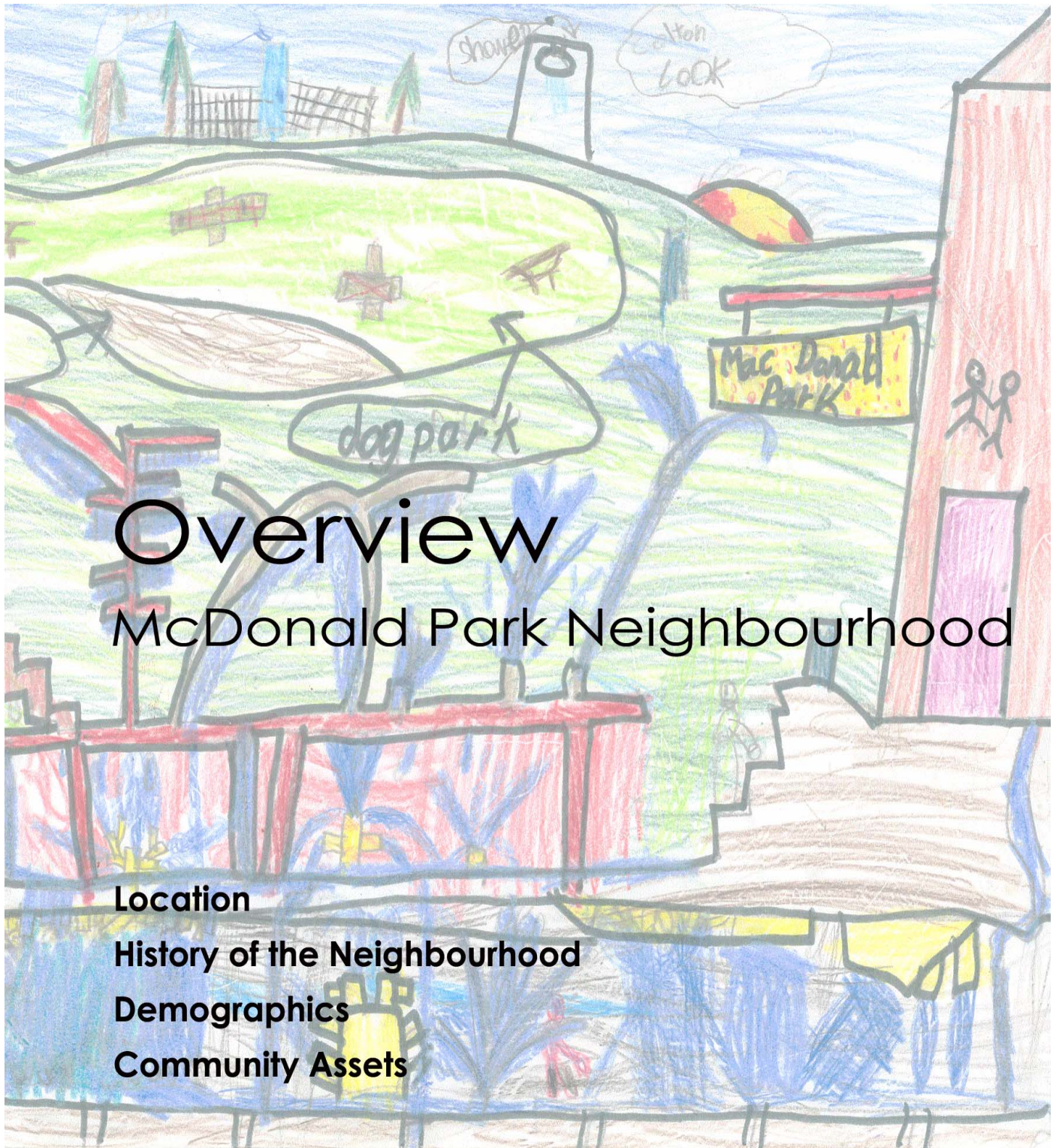


Most importantly, there is a sense in the community that the City of Kamloops lacks commitment to the North Shore, especially the McDonald Park neighbourhood. This lack of commitment, the residents firmly believe, translates into inaction on the part of the city government and disregard from the Kamloops community at large. The perception is that the McDonald Park neighbourhood is an impoverished community with significant social problems.

The residents of the McDonald Park neighbourhood are rallying against this perception. There is a strong commitment by the community to this neighbourhood, and a growing



sense of community identity and mobilisation. The residents want to make this neighbourhood not only better, but the *best* neighbourhood in Kamloops. The *McDonald Park Neighbourhood Project* is a community-led project that has been designed to address the issues and concerns of the neighbourhood, and to provide the tools and strategies to realise a better neighbourhood.



Overview

McDonald Park Neighbourhood

Location

History of the Neighbourhood

Demographics

Community Assets

OVERVIEW

THE McDONALD PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD

LOCATION

The McDonald Park neighbourhood is situated on Kamloops' North Shore.

Neighbourhood boundaries are subjective. Two different neighbourhoods may perceive a given geography differently, and may view an area as belonging to each. For the purposes of *McDonald Park Neighbourhood Project*, the location of the McDonald Park neighbourhood is defined as the area to the south of Mackenzie Avenue, between McArthur Island to the west and Tranquille Road to the east, with the Thompson River forming the southern boundary. This strict delineation is difficult, however, and there is a recognition that the neighbourhood does have important linkages with surrounding areas, including John Tod Elementary school (Wood St), Norkam Secondary School (12th St between Tranquille Rd and McArthur Island), McArthur Island, and the Northhills commercial area.

HISTORY OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

The rich and colourful story of the McDonald Park neighbourhood, interestingly enough, begins on the South Shore of Kamloops.

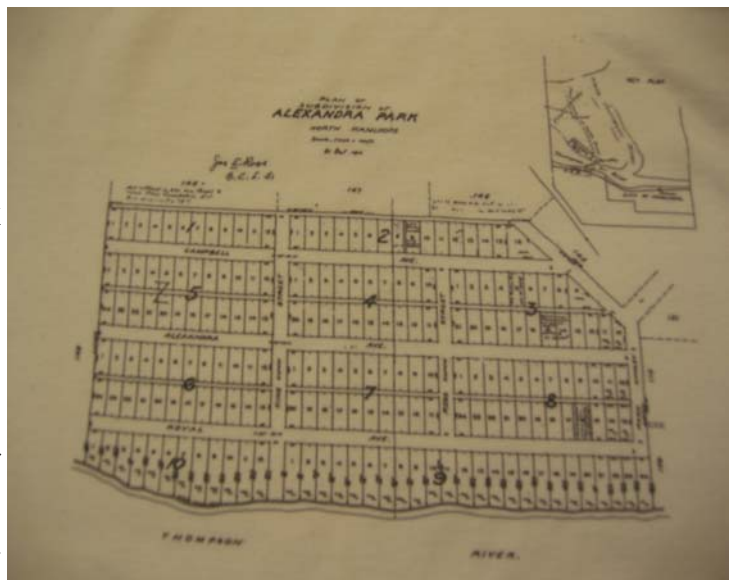
The fur trade, one of the defining factors in the history of Kamloops, arrived on Kamloops' South Shore on May 6, 1812, when Alexander Ross of the Pacific Fur Company opened the Thompson's River Post. Thompson's River Post was the first permanent trading post in the area. It was taken over by the North West Fur Trade

Company in 1812, and became a Hudson's Bay Company post when the two companies amalgamated in 1822.

The Hudson's Bay Company, under the direction of then Chief Trader John Tod, moved the Thompson's River Post to the North Shore in 1842. Tranquille Meadows became an important horse farm for the post. The North Shore began to develop in earnest just after the turn of the last century, sparked by the construction of the first bridge over the Thompson in 1901.

Originally known as Wardville, Canadian Real Properties purchased the large tract of land on the North Shore in 1903. They divided into four blocks: Block A, Blackpines/Raleigh; Block B, Westsyde; Block C, North Kamloops; and Block D, Brocklehurst, and incorporating it as BC Fruitlands in 1909. BC Fruitlands began with 6000 acres of orchards, and by 1920 they owned 22,000 acres of land devoted to fruit and vegetable production. They remained the largest landowner on the North Shore until the 1940's. Exports went to Vancouver, the Prairies, and as far as England. They ceased to operate in 1946, but the area around McDonald Park is still considered to have the best soil in Kamloops.

McDonald Park itself was originally known as Alexandra Park. The Agricultural Association of Kamloops purchased 40 acres south of Mackenzie Ave, between Knox St and Park St, in 1901 and operated it as exhibition grounds with a ½ mile race track until 1911. The Association went bankrupt in 1910, and in 1911 Thomas Campbell purchased the grounds, quickly re-selling it for a residential development that never occurred. Where the original name for the park came from is unclear. It



may have been named for a daughter of Queen Victoria. Or, given that it belonged to the agricultural association, it may have been named for Alexandra Orne Mack, a Holstein who was part of the Tranquille Meadows dairy herd... and who won and set national milk production records.

North Kamloops itself was incorporated as the Village of North Kamloops in 1947, occupying an area of 485 acres, and as the Town of North Kamloops in 1961. It amalgamated with the City of Kamloops in 1967.

The neighbourhood surrounding Alexandra Park took ownership of part of the old exhibition grounds as a neighbourhood park in the 1940's. In 1946, a neighbourhood resident proposed changing the name to McDonald Park in honour of Angus McDonald, the secretary of BC Fruitlands. Work began in the park in 1951, pool construction began in 1953, and the playground officially opened in 1957, the same year the Overlander Bridge was completed. The park remains, to this day, the centrepiece of a wonderful neighbourhood steeped in heritage and history.

COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

Population

The character of a community is influenced by the composition of its residents. The population of McDonald Park is 2,971 (based on the CT 0014 *Census Tract*, an area slightly larger than the boundaries defined in the *McDonald Park Neighbourhood Plan*) compared to that of 86,491 for the entire City of Kamloops, according to 2001 Census data. This represents 3% of the entire City of Kamloops population. For more information, visit the Community Profiles section on the Statistics Canada web site at www.statscan.ca.

Age Distribution

The age distribution of the neighbourhood is shown below in Figure 1. This data reveals that there is a slightly greater proportion of residents in the 40-54 year range followed by the 70-84 year range. In comparison to the City of Kamloops in Figure 3, it is fair to say that McDonald Park is an ageing population.

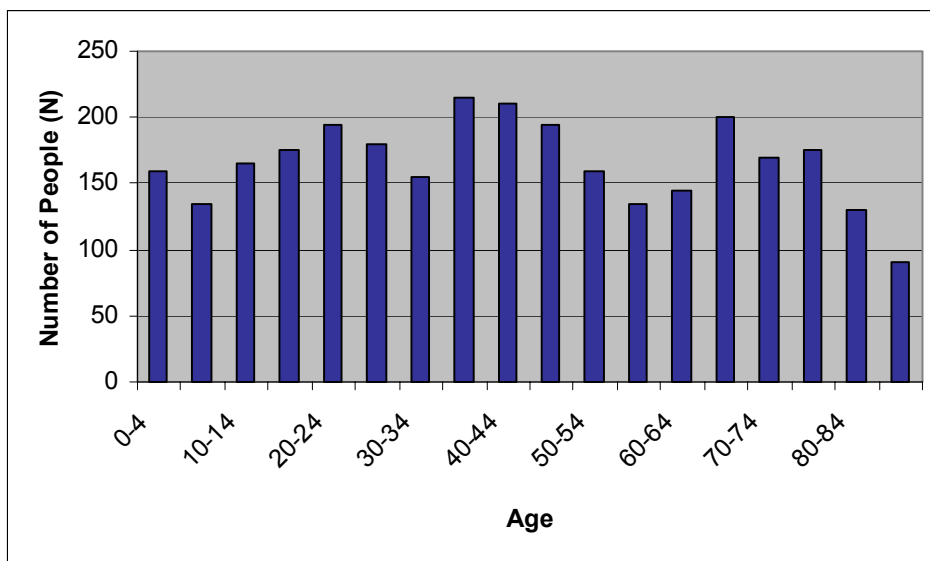


Figure 1 - Age distribution of the McDonald Park Neighbourhood (Statistics Canada, 2001 Census Data)

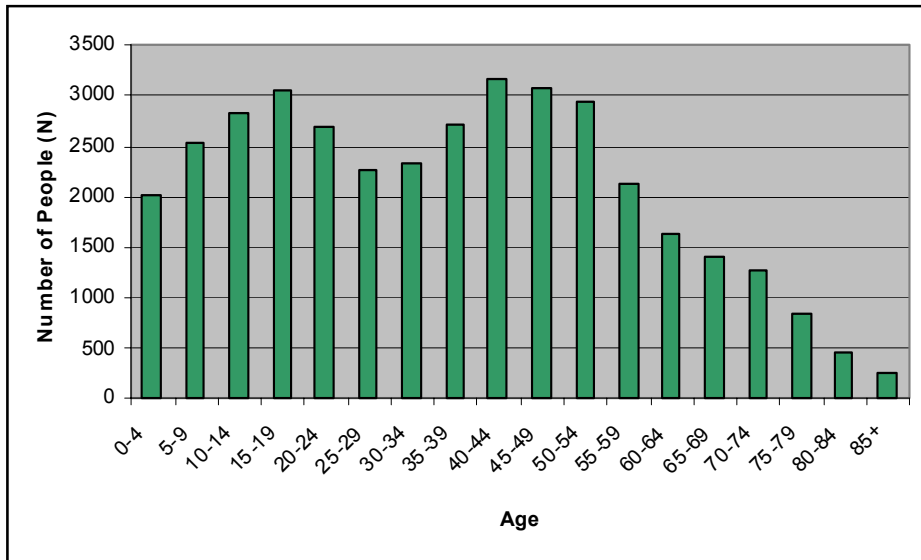


Figure 2– Age distribution of the City of Kamloops (Statistics Canada, 2001 Census Data)

Ethnic Make up

The ethnic make-up of the neighbourhood is represented in Figure 4. The majority of the neighbourhood residents are identified as Caucasian (74%). First Nations compose the second largest identifiable population at 18.7%. All other ethnic groups combined represent 7.3% of the population.

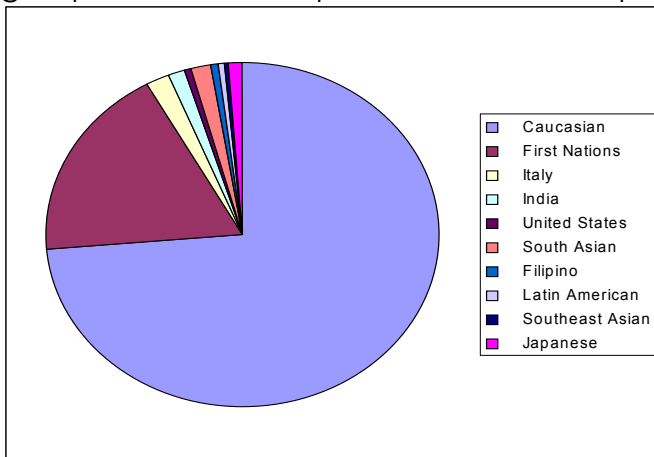


Figure 3 - Ethnic Composition of the McDonald Park Neighbourhood (2001 Census Data)

Income

The average household income for McDonald Park is \$30,802 compared to the average income of the entire City of Kamloops at \$54,156.

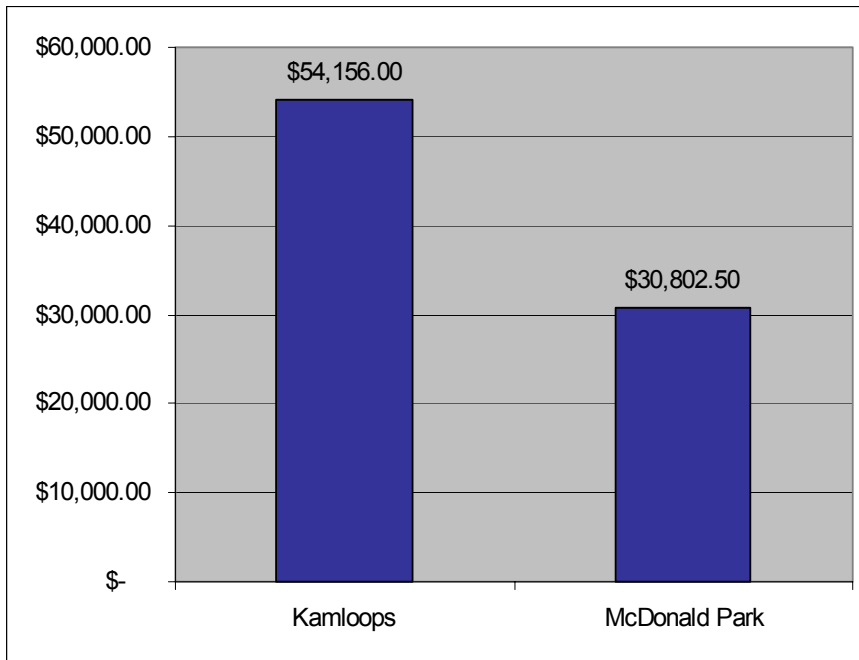


Figure 4 - Average Household Income (\$) for Kamloops and the McDonald Park Neighbourhood (2001 Census Data)

There is a higher unemployment rate (23.3%) and a lower employment rate (36.4%) in the McDonald Park Neighbourhood compared to that in the City of Kamloops.

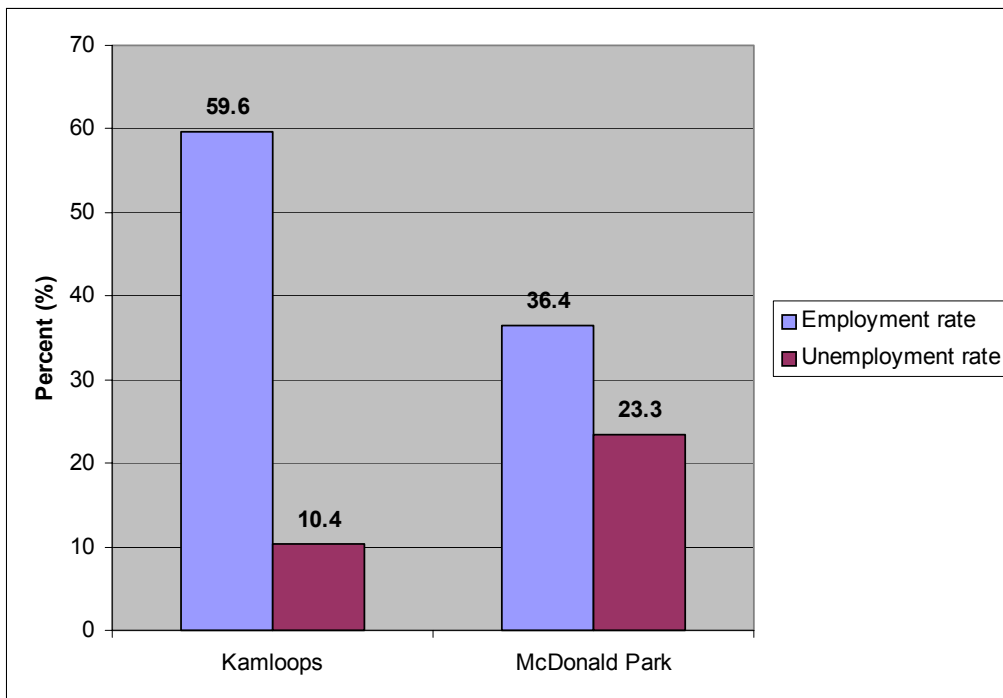


Figure 5 - Employment and Unemployment Rates (%) for the McDonald Park Neighbourhood and the City of Kamloops (2001 Census Data)

There is a slightly higher proportion of residents with owned housing property (52%) than residents who inhabit rental housing (48%) in the neighbourhood. However, this is significantly lower than the City wide average in which 71% of the households are owned and only 29% are rented units.

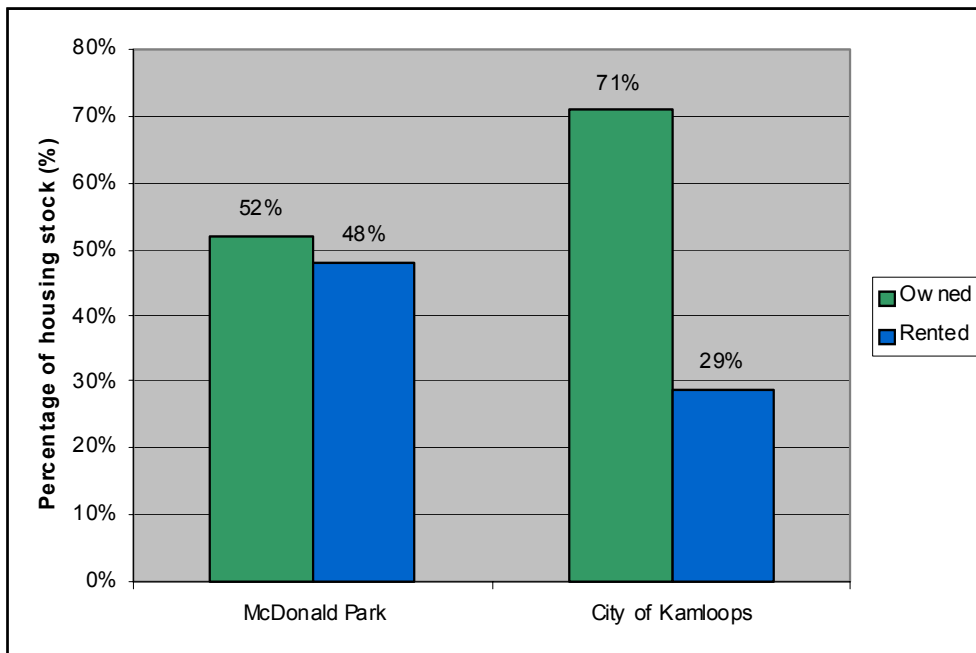


Figure 6 - Proportion of housing rentals versus ownership (2001 Census Data)

In the City of Kamloops *TravelSmart* program, the area encompassed by McDonald Park has been identified as an area targeted for an increase in in-fill housing. This growth management policy hopes to increase the number of residents living in the neighbourhood by relieving development pressures on protected agricultural land on the outskirts of the city. For more information on the *TravelSmart* program and how it relates to the neighbourhood, please consult the City of Kamloops Transportation web-site www.kamloops.ca/transportation/index.html.

COMMUNITY ASSETS



The McDonald Park Neighbourhood offers a variety of housing opportunities, including single family homes, apartments and senior's housing. Single family homes, many of which are beautifully landscaped homes with a great deal of character, characterise the bulk of the housing stock available in the neighbourhood.

The neighbourhood is also home to a significant number of long-term residents. Several apartment buildings are also scattered throughout the community. The neighbourhood is very close to a library, schools, a post office, many churches, and a beautiful park with a 25m pool. The park is considered the jewel of the neighbourhood.



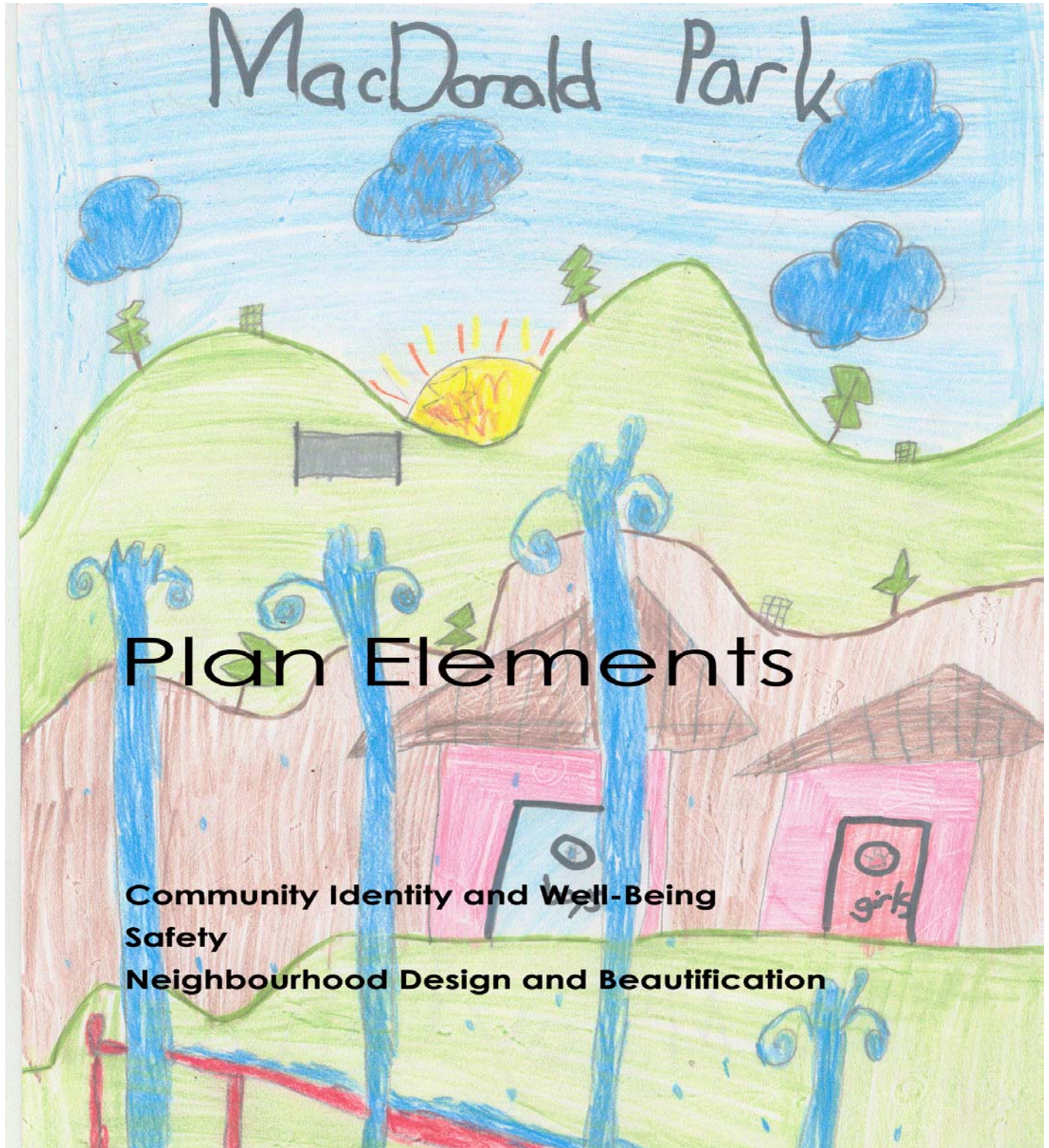
This neighbourhood's rich and wonderful legacy has gone through relatively few physical changes over the past years. Its maturity, convenience, and accessibility to the river, swimming pool, schools, recreation, and shopping centres are some the most important assets of the neighbourhood. Maintaining these exciting assets and enhancing the McDonald Park neighbourhood is critical to ensuring a strong quality of life for all its residents.

The age, character and location of the neighbourhood, with its proximity to shopping centres, the Rivers Trail, and downtown make the McDonald Park neighbourhood perhaps the best model of sustainability in Kamloops. It is arguably more sustainable than much of the new development that occurs up the slopes on the South Shore. The *McDonald Park Neighbourhood Plan*,

therefore, focuses more on enhancing the liveability of the neighbourhood. Building upon the liveability of older neighbourhoods such as McDonald Park will make them more desirable as places in which to live. In terms of achieving greater sustainability in Kamloops, this approach could potentially minimise the desire to build more houses up the hill. There is a terrific opportunity to enhance Kamloops' sustainability by building upon the community assets of the McDonald Park neighbourhood.

To view a complete inventory of the community's assets, please see Appendix I.





PLAN ELEMENTS

In collaboration with the residents of the McDonald Park neighbourhood and City of Kamloops' staff, the McDonald Park planning team has identified the top issues and priorities in the McDonald Park neighbourhood. Based on several community meetings and an Open House held on November 28, 2003, the McDonald Park Planning Team identified three key areas of concern. These three concerns are to increase community identify, to ensure safety, and to beautify the neighbourhood. *Plan Elements* lists those issues, and offers objectives, strategies and recommendations in dealing with those issues.



COMMUNITY IDENTITY

KAMPLAN 1997 states that a goal of the City of Kamloops is to “support the development of a strong community image.”

One of the goals of the *McDonald Park Neighbourhood Project* is to showcase the McDonald Park neighbourhood as a great community and a great place to live. The neighbourhood has many wonderful assets, including the Thompson Riverfront, the neighbourhood's proximity to the Tranquille Road Market, and McDonald Park itself, the centrepiece of the community. Throughout all of our neighbourhood discussions and working meetings, residents have cheered about the reasons for living in their neighbourhood. Above all, residents talked about the sense of pride and connection they have in the community.

Even though the residents love where they live, they did talk about things they felt could be improved or changed about the McDonald Park neighbourhood. The changes they want will increase identity and pride in the neighbourhood. The following sections capture the issues and problems identified by members of the community, and offer recommendations for improvements.

Collaboration and Capacity Building

Issue 1: Fostering connections between residents and the City of Kamloops.

The residents of the McDonald Park neighbourhood have expressed the need for closer ties to the city government. They feel that the city government has been slow to respond in the past to concerns surrounding infrastructure and service provision. Issues such as snow removal, neighbourhood beautification, and road maintenance have been expressed. KAMPLAN 1997 states that the City of

Kamloops will continue to develop the sense of community and cooperation in its neighbourhoods.

Issue 2: Residents shaping their community.

The residents feel that they do not have a voice in the implementation of activities in their neighbourhood. The residents want to have more of an influence in shaping their community, and more of a role in policy formation and building capacity to address issues and problems. Many residents feel their concerns do not receive due respect from city officials.

Objective

To foster linkages between the neighbourhood residents, community organizations, local government and First Nations.

Strategies and Recommendations

Create a Community Stewardship Group

A Community Stewardship Group should be created, one that works in co-operation with city officials and staff, community service organisations and First Nations to work towards common goals. The Community Stewardship

Group would be an on-going group with a life past the duration of this project or its implementation. Community Stewardship Groups offer a powerful collective voice that can effectively respond to neighbourhood issues, provide motivation and capacity, and offer a forum to represent diverse perspectives. Community members have stated that they feel that their concerns have not been given weight by the greater Kamloops community and government. By bringing



together members representing different organisations and viewpoints, a structure is created to promote better communication of concerns.

Community problems are often too large and complex to tackle within small groups; with a collective understanding and approach towards community issues, momentum is created that can influence current practices and policy. The capacity to deal with issues in the neighbourhood would fall within community groups' mandate, yet the involvement of the City of Kamloops Parks and Recreation Department can play a large role in strengthening these groups.

The McDonald Park Planning Team, in conjunction with city staff at the Department of Parks and Recreation, is developing a workshop on community development skills and effectively running neighbourhood groups. Workshops on community development skills and strategies on how to run effective neighbourhood groups will facilitate this work.

The Community Stewardship Group should be comprised of community residents, city staff and representatives from community and First Nations organisations. The group should create shared principles, a vision, and a strategic plan for the community. Seattle, Washington has an innovative and successful program called the *Neighbourhood Partnership Program* that brings city officials, businesses and residents to the same table to solve community issues. Some of the issues the *Neighbourhood Partnership Program* has been successful in dealing with include economic development, implementing small scale social programs, and neighbourhood revitalisation projects. For more information on the program, please refer to the Vancouver Community Network web-site at www.vcn.bc.ca/citizens-handbook/models/M_06_seattle.html.

Partnership programs between the city and the community

The City of Kamloops Parks and Recreation Department has existing programs that can be used to enhance pride and a sense of community in the McDonald Park neighbourhood. Programs that promote a greater working relationship with the City will create opportunities and improvements in the neighbourhood. The City of Kamloops' Parks and Recreation Department will play a significant role in creating better information and access to these programs at the community level. In conjunction with the community group, the Parks and Recreation Department can bring information about these programs to the community and aid the community group in implementation of these programs on the ground.

One such program that fits these criteria and would be beneficial to the community is *Communities in Bloom*. The *Communities in Bloom* program is a national competition, co-ordinated in Kamloops by Parks and Recreation, to foster pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community action. The *Communities in Bloom* program, in partnership with the *Community Enhancement Fund*, provides support for individual local projects that improve the colour and beauty of neighbourhoods. The *McDonald Park Neighbourhood Plan* identifies four sites within the neighbourhood as potential for beautification projects through the *Communities in Bloom* program. These sites include;



- A floral garden at the south-east corner of McDonald Park.
- Garden bulges that are proposed in this plan along Royal Ave. Please see

Section 3 in *Neighbourhood and Safety* for more details.

- Around the hydro box on Mackenzie Ave. and Park St.
- Near entryways into the community. Flower patches should be planted on public property around Mackenzie Ave. at Tranquille Rd., Knox St. at Tranquille Rd., and Mackenzie Island.

Community Pride

Issue 3: McDonald Park neighbourhood stereotyping.

Residents feel that the McDonald Park neighbourhood is viewed negatively by the rest of the City, due to the income, employment, and rental status of many neighbourhood residents.

Issue 4: Need for community events.

The residents have identified the organisation of community-wide events as an area for improvement. Community events can foster a sense of cohesion and cooperation among community members. Residents feel that there is a need for more community events that bring the community together and create a sense of well-being and pride.

Issue 5: Neighbourhood infrastructure and pride.

Residents have expressed the desire to make a greater effort to beautify the neighbourhood. Streets and public infrastructure are regarded to be in poor condition: broken pavement and a lack of curbing characterise the neighbourhood streets. Physical and social infrastructure improvements are required to create a greater sense of pride in the community.

Objective

To encourage a strong sense of neighbourhood pride and to promote the McDonald Park neighbourhood as a great place to live.

Strategies and Recommendation

Community Events

Community events are useful for creating a sense of pride and social connection in a neighbourhood. They can serve many purposes. First, they foster a sense of social belonging and connection in community members. Second, community events can provide recreational and leisure activities that can increase the quality of life for residents. They should be accessible to all members of the community and should represent their interests and needs.

Community event planning should include residents of differing abilities and ages, specifically the seniors and youth of the community. Again, the Parks and Recreation Department will play a large role in providing the institutional support, human resources, and funding to encourage such events in the neighbourhood. The Community Stewardship Group, local organisations, businesses and residents will play a significant role in providing the energy, ideas and fundraising to get these events to be fun additions to the neighbourhood.

Examples of community events possible for the McDonald Park neighbourhood include:

Block or Sidewalk Parties:

Block Parties are individual street events where the neighbourhood closes down the street for a barbeque, games' street, yard sale, or a whole host of other activities.



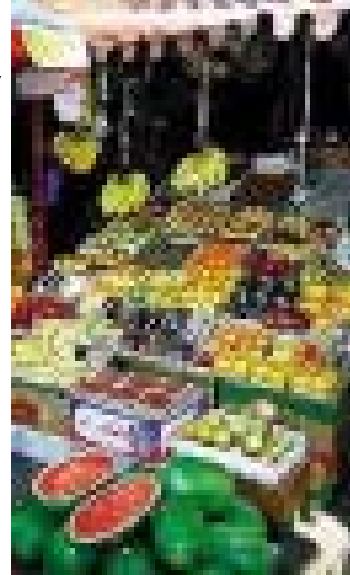
The City of Kamloops issues permits for street closures and provides barricades for this purpose. Contact Pierre Pouliotte, Senior Traffic

Technician at 822-3694.

Farmers' Markets:

Farmers' markets are great community events. They allow residents, and businesses to showcase local crafts, art, and produce. The market can bring local residents together in a way that creates a sense of pride and connection in the community.

Farmers' markets are a great way to bring vitality and business to the North Shore. They can provide income and exposure to small scale, local artists and producers, and can be used as an economic development mechanism that keeps money in the hands of local businesses and entrepreneurs.



A Farmers' market has been unsuccessfully attempted in the North Shore in the past. There is a Farmers' market currently held on Saturday and Wednesday in the downtown core. Given that the organisers of the Farmers' market may not want to provide a market on an additional day of the week, recommendations are as follows:

- ☐ Encourage the Wednesday market to re-locate to the North Shore on alternate weeks.
- ☐ Have a Sunday market that involves farmers that are not involved in the downtown markets.
- ☐ Target the market to include products that are not featured in the traditional Farmers' market. This market would be more targeted toward artistic or cultural wares, and value-added products made on the North Shore (honey, baked goods). A potential schedule may be to hold the Farmers' market one Sunday a month.

Funding for Farmer's markets could come from:

- Cost-recovery from vendor fees.
- The City of Kamloops. In other British Columbian Farmer's markets, the municipality contributes funding for the initial staffing, publicity and tents.
- The BC Farmers Market Association can help provide information support for setting up a market. For more information, please consult the BC Farmers Market Association web-site www.bcfarmersmarket.org/web/aboutus.htm.

The North Shore Business Improvement Association, the local business community, the Farmers' market group and the Community Stewardship Group will have to play a large role in creating the community capacity and program support to have a Farmer's market in the neighbourhood. A temporary staffing position, possibly with the NSBIA, could be created to build the necessary connections and to research the feasibility of holding a market on the North Shore.

Festivals commemorating historic or cultural events:



The McDonald Park neighbourhood has a rich history and a mix of diverse cultures. The park itself has a varied history as both a fairgrounds and a racetrack, while the neighbourhood has the highest percentage of First Nations compared with the rest of the city. This strong link to history and culture should be celebrated and showcased. There is a great opportunity to hold historic and cultural events that will attract visitors and showcase the richness of the community and McDonald Park.

Events in McDonald Park:

McDonald Park is described by the residents and local businesses as the jewel of the community. As it is a major asset, it should be utilised for community events. As public lands are owned by the city, the city government can provide assistance to encourage community-led activities in the park. Currently, an Easter Egg event is held in the park every spring, and there is a greater potential to hold more events. The Parks and Recreation Department has a mandate to encourage and facilitate the provision of recreational opportunities by sport groups, service, cultural groups and other community organisations. Opportunities for community events in the park include

Easter Celebration:

An Easter Celebration is currently held in the park, organised by an active member of the community, including an Easter egg hunt, breakfast, family picnics, horse rides, and a flea market.

Community Yard Sale:

An Annual Community Yard Sale Day already exists in the McDonald Park Neighbourhood.

Lantern Festival:

A Lantern Festival and other night-time events are a great way to encourage community members to participate in art projects as well as reclaim the park for the community at night, when crime and prostitution have been reported as problems. Festivals such as these, organized by *The Public Dreams Society*, have been very successful in Vancouver. For more information, please consult the Public Dreams Society web-



site.

<http://www.publicdreams.org/about.htm>.

Community Picnics':

There are several churches within the local area. Church or community picnics could be held in the park during the summer.

Games Day:

The park should be used to promote recreation and physical activity to increase health and well-being in the community. A Games Day or an athletic event in connection with McArthur Island would be a great way to increase the park's exposure and use.

Theatre in the Park:

Theatre in the Park is a great opportunity to promote arts in the park. The community could use the park to watch movies or to display local small scale theatre. One idea would be to have children's theatre in the park from the John Todd Elementary school.



Theatre in the Park ideas have been wildly successful in other communities in British Columbia as a way to claim the space for the community.

Community Art:

Community art has many benefits. It helps create community identity, can showcase local artists, beautify neighbourhoods, showcase local history and culture, and facilitate community dialogue. Community art can also have economic benefits as well, when businesses relocate to be closer to



cultural and artistic amenities.

The City of Kamloops Parks and Recreation Department has a *Community Arts Program*. Funds have been made available for projects which promote the development of art in the community. The program is open to all arts disciplines.

The *Community Arts Council of Kamloops* also provides funding for community arts projects. The *Council* is able to act as an administrative body for programs initiated by local organizations.

Increased use of the Parkview Activity Centre



The Parkview Activity Centre is a great asset for the McDonald Park neighbourhood. Currently, the Parkview Activity Centre is underutilised.

The Parkview Activity Centre is managed by the Parks and Recreation Department. The Activity Centre has great potential for hosting community events and meetings for local organisations, and can complement activities in McDonald Park. The current costs for the use

of the Activity Centre during an event are \$5 per adult and \$2.50 per child. It has been suggested that for a small local organisation this price may be too high, calculated to cost up to \$200 for an event. There is a potential for Parks and Recreation to offer bursaries for certain events or organisations they deem “to improve the livelihood and well-being of the residents of McDonald Park”. As well, the Park and Recreation Department should re-evaluate the usage of the centre, its policies of use, and publicise any changes so that community groups know what is available to them.

There is also the opportunity for the Boys and Girls Club to partner with the City to

hold many of their activities at the Parkview Activity Centre. The Boys and Girls Club is an active organisation in the neighbourhood supporting programs targeted toward youth. Institutional building between the Boys and Girls Club, Parks and Recreation Department, and Community Stewardship Group will need to be accomplished to facilitate this collaborative partnership to bring more needed youth activities to the Activity Centre.

Improved maintenance of rental absentee-owned properties

Concerns have been expressed by residents regarding the maintenance of rental and absentee-owned properties in the neighbourhood. Poorly-maintained properties create a “run-down” appearance in the neighbourhood. The appearance of these properties also perpetuates the negative view held by other residents of Kamloops, and affects pride in the appearance of the community.

The City of Kamloops, in collaboration with local community groups, should support owner and tenant education regarding the maintenance of their properties. As well, communication between city departments and community members about problem properties should be improved, providing a method to deal with these properties. Encouraging partnerships between residents, owners, police, and the city will be important in dealing with property issues that stem into larger community issues such as criminal activity.



Kamloops' “Unsightly by-law” must be more rigorously enforced in the neighbourhood by the responsible authorities. Another option would be for the City to create a “Standards of Maintenance by-law” to ensure that landlords have more stewardship of their properties. Residents could also get involved by helping

clean up each others yards, and creating a friendly, community-minded neighbourhood.

Health and Well-Being

Issue 6: Increasing the health and vibrancy of residents and the community

Health is influenced by our physical and social environments. A healthy and vibrant community is one that is an appealing place to live, both socially and physically. It is a place where the physical characteristics of a place bring its residents together. *KAMPLAN 1997* aims to “develop and maintain an aesthetically appealing urban environment to enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.” The McDonald Park neighbourhood has a great tradition of character buildings and devoted residents, and would easily build on this tradition, with aid from the city, to enhance its quality of life.

Residents of the McDonald Park neighbourhood have mentioned the need to increase activities that bring community members together in outdoor settings, in order to enhance health and well-being. Well-being is the state of being healthy, happy and prosperous.

Objective

To create a neighbourhood that enhances the well-being and health of its residents.

Strategies and Recommendations

Community gardens

Community gardens help create a sense of community, and promote sustainable

practices that address our connection to food and the immediate environment. Community gardens can help save money on personal food expenses, they build communal public spaces, and create communities with character and a sense of place. In many cases, community gardens are less expensive to maintain than park space. The City of Kamloops has a very active food security organisation, the Kamloops Food Policy Council. For more information on the Council, please contact Laura Kalina at shopsmart@telus.net. Ms. Kalina is recognised across the country as a leading expert in community food programs.

There is also the potential to create partnerships with other community organisations, including GardenGate, which is a gardening training centre for persons with mental disabilities.



There are currently two community gardens on North Shore; one is located beside the Mt. Paul United Church (140 Laburnum St.) and the other is on city-owned land at Crestline St that is operated by the Kamloops Food Policy Council. These gardens have been very successful.

There is the potential to create other community gardens in the neighbourhood. As there are a high number of personal gardens within the neighbourhood, the demand for a large garden may be low. There is, however, great potential for small community gardens at a variety of locations.

Site opportunities for community gardens include:

- Ø property located between Thrupp Manor and the adjacent property. This site would be ideal to invite senior residents of Thrupp to participate in the community garden.
- Ø the corner of Carson Crescent and Mackenzie Ave.
- Ø the empty lot beside the church on Knox St.

- Ø in McDonald Park. This community garden would be mostly a floral garden as suggested during the McDonald Park Design Charrette on February 7, 2004.
- Ø other possible sites include traffic/garden bulges. These traffic/garden bulges would be ideal locations for small gardening efforts. This approach addresses the need for community gardens and innovative traffic calming.

Park recreational programming

McDonald Park is an important and valuable feature of the neighbourhood. The City of Kamloops Parks and Recreation department has an opportunity for the creation and delivery of recreational programming in the park. There is great potential to enhance the recreational use of McDonald Park by residents. The park houses a seasonal pool, children's playground area and several basketball courts. The use of these facilities could be increased by creating on-going programming and events that use the various facilities, such as 3-on-3 basketball tournaments for youth, a waterpark or Bar-BQ Dayz at the pool during the summer.

The park has a large grassy portion at the north-east end of the park which has great potential to be used as a flexible field-sports area. This space could be activated by encouraging games of soccer, football or ultimate frisbee. Encouraging the use of this space by youth would fulfill a large need in the community for youth-friendly space.



Create a community

Foster connections among residents, and create a sense of place. This can be accomplished through community events, learning the names of your neighbours, starting a neighbourhood newsletter, newspaper, or website.

Rivers Trail

There will be many health opportunities if the Rivers Trail is expanded into the McDonald Park. The Rivers Trail which is a great fitness and outdoor asset for the city is being proposed to extend on to Lilac Ave and Royal Ave in the neighbourhood.

Accessibility



Issue 7: Accessibility of programs and services.

Many neighbourhood residents feel that programs and activities within the community must be more accessible to low-income families, persons with disabilities, youth, seniors and First Nations. *KAMPLAN 1997* makes explicit reference to the need to ensure that cultural and recreational programs and facilities

are available to meet the needs of as many residents as possible.

The City offers an affordable recreation program for low-income individuals and families. In the McDonald Park setting, the City provides numerous free passes to the McDonald Park Pool for neighbourhood children to get maximum benefit of the pool during the summer months.

Objective

To foster programs and activities that include all members of the community and embraces diversity.

Strategies and Recommendations

Youth activities

Activities for youth have been identified as a priority by residents in the community. Activities that residents feel that need to be encouraged include:

- Ø Greater use of the park facilities by youth for recreational activity. Options include recreational programming for the basketball courts and pool, or youth designed events in the Parkview Activity Centre.
- Ø Utilisation of *Boys and Girls Youth Night Program* on McArthur Island. The *Youth Night* is a great opportunity to encourage youth participation that is both locally-based and fun.

Activities that meet the needs of seniors and persons with disabilities

There are several seniors' facilities in the McDonald Park neighbourhood, as seniors make up a large part of the population. Special consideration and planning must be made to encourage seniors and persons with disabilities to participate in neighbourhood activities. Ensuring that events are physically accessible and are low cost will increase participation by members of the community who traditionally have difficulty becoming involved.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY

Another main area of concern in the neighbourhood, one that has been identified by residents, is the issue of safety. There is consensus throughout the community that the neighbourhood streets are not as safe as they would like, especially in terms of traffic safety and crime.

The purpose of this section is to suggest strategies, some of which the City of Kamloops can act on, such as traffic calming and lighting; others are action items for the residents of the McDonald Park neighbourhood, including community policing initiatives such as neighbourhood watch groups. The goal of these recommendations is, in the end, to enhance the liveability and sustainability of the McDonald Park neighbourhood through an increased sense of safety.

Liveability

Creating a liveable community in the McDonald Park neighbourhood means creating a neighbourhood that is healthy and walkable, where people feel safe on the streets, where neighbours know each other and keep an eye on each other. Creating a community that is liveable means creating a “sense of place.” Fostering a connection among residents of McDonald Park can draw people together and encourage an atmosphere of peace, security and pride.

Issue 1: Creating a safe and walkable community.

A key strategy in *KAMPLAN 1997* is to develop communities in a manner that leads to “a more compact, sustainable and efficient land use form, while maintaining and enhancing the community’s liveability.” One effective method to do this is to develop a community that is walkable and safe. The McDonald Park neighbourhood is experienced as unsafe, and therefore unwalkable.

Objective

To create a safe, walkable and friendly community that enhances the image of the McDonald Park neighbourhood

Strategies and Recommendations

- *McDonald Park Neighbourhood Watch Group*: establish a neighbourhood watch group in McDonald Park, in co-operation with the City of Kamloops detachment of the RCMP. Neighbourhood Watch programs, including block watch programs, increase the opportunity for residents to take ownership of their neighbourhood, to take more responsibility for safety, for solving problems, for increasing visibility on the streets, and lowering fear levels. Neighbourhood Watch Groups also provide a structure to build a relationship with local RCMP officers, and sends a message that the community is serious about safety in their neighbourhood. For more information, contact Martha McArthur at 1-877-692-3358 or m.mcarthur@bccpa.org
- *Encourage other groups to use the park*: a successful technique in Vancouver's West End has been to encourage running groups to use local parks for pre- and post-run activities such as stretching, or community groups to practise Tai Chi, Yoga, or other activities. Encourage the Kamloops' Triathlon Club or Ridge Runners to use McDonald Park as a starting point for runs along the Rivers Trail. The neighbourhood could also encourage a return of basketball clinics, or other uses. See the Community Events section in *Community Identity* for further ideas.
- *McDonald Park Neighbourhood Exercise Club*: active use of streets discourages their use for criminal activity. Encourage local exercise groups to use McDonald Park, as above. For another example, look to the residents of Seminole Heights in Tampa Bay, who established the Southeast Seminole Heights Civic Association Exercise Club in 2000 as a means to eliminate



prostitution and other criminal activity from their neighbourhood. See www.geocities.com/dbanghart/prostitution.html for more information.

- *Walking school bus*: work with the PAC of John Tod Elementary to establish a *walking school bus*. The *walking school bus*, operated by a “bus driver,” walks a set route every morning and afternoon, picking up children at designated stops, and loading their books into a covered cart. The *walking school bus* overcomes the problem of traffic safety and the perceptions of “stranger danger.” It also reduces car use, and encourages exercise.
- *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)*: the theory behind CPTED is that the proper design and the effective use of the built environment can lead to the reduction in fear and incidence of crime, and an improvement of the quality of life. CPTED is defined as “design that eliminates or reduces criminal behaviour and at the same time encourages people to ‘keep an eye out’ for each other.” CPTED strategies need to be coordinated with local the RCMP detachment.



There are 3 overlapping strategies to CPTED:

1. *Natural Surveillance*: A design concept directed primarily at keeping spaces easily observable: maximize visibility of people, parking areas and building entrances; doors and windows that look out on to streets and parking areas; pedestrian-friendly sidewalks and streets; front porches; adequate night-time lighting. There are opportunities for both residents and the city to act on this.
 - o provide appropriate lighting in back alleys and in McDonald Park
 - o install security lights around buildings, such as at McDonald Park Pool, Parkview Activity Centre, and private residences.
2. *Territorial Reinforcement*: Expressing and defining ownership in a manner

that discourages potential offenders. Promoted by features that define property lines and distinguish private spaces from public spaces using landscape plantings, pavement designs, gateway treatments, and fences with clear lines of sight. Neighbourhood design is key.

3. *Natural Access Control*: A design concept directed primarily at decreasing crime opportunity by denying access to crime targets and creating in offenders a perception of risk. Gained by designing streets, sidewalks, building entrances and neighbourhood gateways to clearly indicate public routes and discouraging access to private areas with structural elements.

Crime and Prostitution

Feeling safe where you live is critical in fostering a sense of community. When people feel unsafe, they do not leave their homes, they do not walk the streets, they do not keep an eye out for their neighbours. There is a very strong concern regarding crime in the McDonald Park neighbourhood, particularly in relation to prostitution, vandalism, theft, and fear of assault. Residents point to the use of the park itself, as well as back lanes, by prostitutes as locations to “turn tricks.” Parents are concerned by the disposal of condoms and needles in public places frequented by children, including McDonald Park. Prostitution has also been linked to drug use, and therefore property crime.

A community such as this has the ability to deal with crime at a community level. This is because the residents of the neighbourhood are aware of the local issues and concerns. They have a front seat to the criminal activity in the neighbourhood. Kamloops already participates in the *D.I.S.C. (Deter and Identify Sex Trade Consumers)* program, which is an information distribution and management system targeted at consumers of the sex trade. There is an opportunity here for involvement by the McDonald Park neighbourhood.

Another opportunity for involvement is with the *Community Mobilization Program*, a federal government program that will provide funding support to communities willing to invest their time and expertise to mobilize partners (residents, businesses, schools, community organizations) to battle criminal behaviour. For more information, visit the *National Crime Prevention Strategy* website at www.prevention.gc.ca/en/programs/index.html.

Issue 2: Prostitution in the McDonald Park neighbourhood

Prostitution is a major concern for the residents of McDonald Park.

Objective

To eliminate prostitution from the McDonald Park neighbourhood and make McDonald Park and neighbourhood streets safe and comfortable for residents and children

Strategies and Recommendations

- *McDonald Park Neighbourhood "John" Watch*: as part of establishing a neighbourhood watch group in McDonald Park, establish a group to specifically watch prostitution. A group in Ottawa has established the "Ottawa West John Site", a site that displays the licence plates of vehicles seen picking up prostitutes. The site can be viewed at www.geocities.com/ottawajohns/johnpagehome.html.
- *Traffic Calming*: evidence from cities as diverse as Vancouver and West Palm Beach, Florida suggests that traffic calming, such as diverters, partial closures and traffic circles, discourages the traffic patterns associated with prostitution (i.e. cruising for streetwalkers). While the issue in the neighbourhood is related more to the use of alleys and the park to engage in sexual acts, this method may also prove effective in limiting access into the neighbourhood for this

purpose (for greater details on traffic calming, see the section on *Traffic Safety* later in this chapter).

- *Improve lighting*: improve lighting around homes and businesses, and eliminate dark areas that prostitutes can use to conduct business. Lamps on roads, back lanes, and in McDonald Park are an obvious answer, as are security lights around buildings such as the McDonald Park pool and the Parkview Activity Centre. Residents can help, too. By turning on front and back lights, and by installing a motion-activated or photosensitive spotlight to the exterior of homes, back lanes and darker streets can be made more visible. The *Lighting* section later in this chapter goes into greater detail regarding lighting improvements.
- *Increase involvement in the D.I.S.C. (Deter and Identify Sex Trade Consumers) program*: an information distribution and management system targeted at consumers of the sex trade. Consumers are photographed and a database recording their activities is established, persons of special interest are documented, and the safety and whereabouts of sex trade workers is monitored. For more information, visit the website for the RCMP in Kamloops at www.city.kamloops.bc.ca/police/programs/index.html, or the Vancouver Police Department at www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/police/investigation/vicedrugs/discObjectives.htm.
- *Establish a neighbourhood hotline*: operating a hotline to report illegal activity reinforces that a resident's first responsibility is to call the police. It also allows police or the neighbourhood association to spot problem areas, plot patterns and target resources and efforts. Call the Kamloops Community Policing Office at 250-828-3000 for more information.



- *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)*: design that eliminates or reduces criminal behaviour.

Issue 3: Undesirable activities in McDonald Park.

A park should be a place that the residents of a neighbourhood should have pride in. It should be a spot for families to enjoy, and for residents to go for a walk. There is a great deal of concern amongst the residents of the McDonald Park neighbourhood about drug use, parties, and the dangers of discarded needles in the park, particularly to children. These undesirable activities that often occur in McDonald Park affect the enjoyment and the feeling of ownership residents have of the park.

Objective

To eliminate drug use and unwanted parties from McDonald Park and make McDonald Park safe and comfortable for residents

Strategies and Recommendations

- *Increase use of the Park*: take over McDonald Park with neighbourhood parties. Beat them at their own game! And reinforce that this is a neighbourhood park. One method to reclaim the park is to increase its use by residents, as visibility is a major deterrent for drug users. See the Community Events section in *Community Identity* for further ideas on developing events for McDonald Park, such as *Theatre in the Park* or a community garden.
- *Volunteer Park Patrols*: in Vancouver, volunteer park patrollers cycle around the seawall path in Stanley Park. A similar approach could be used in McDonald Park. Increase “eyes on the park” by making regular visits to McDonald Park,



and reporting illegal activity such as parties.

- *Increase police presence:* establish regular RCMP drive-by's of McDonald Park.

Issue 4: Undesirable activities on the riverfront.

There is a sense among residents that the riverfront does not belong to them. It is viewed as a place where criminal activity occurs. Yet it is a beautiful part of the neighbourhood and of the city, as it is one of the few locations in Kamloops where the riverfront is easily accessible, with entry points at Dee St, King St, and Lilac Ave. It is a place that could be enjoyed not only by residents of the McDonald Park neighbourhood, but by all residents and visitors to Kamloops. Furthermore, a stated goal of KAMPLAN 1997 is to “preserve and protect environmentally sensitive and unique natural areas” and to “develop and maintain an aesthetically appealing environment.”



Objective

To clean up and strengthen the riverfront as an amenity for the neighbourhood and all residents of Kamloops.

Strategies and Recommendations

- *Extend the Rivers Trail:* extending the Rivers Trail from Tranquille along Royal Ave to connect at Lilac Ave onto the dyke leading to McArthur Island will increase foot and bicycle traffic close to the riverfront. This will encourage people to use the riverfront as an amenity, therefore making it a less desirable place for

unwanted activities.

- *Improve access to the riverfront:* create formal, well-lit access points to the riverfront at Dee St, King St, and Lilac Ave to increase public usage of the waterfront. Again, increasing use will increase the “eyes” on the riverfront, and establish it as an amenity for all Kamloops residents.
- *Make regular use of the riverfront:* invent reasons for residents and the larger public to head to the riverfront, including exercise groups and community events, such as a salmon festival. As some properties are owned to the low water level, however, it may be necessary for the City to purchase property, or seek permission for a “right-of-way”.
- *Increase police presence:* ensure that the entry points to the riverfront are part of a regular police patrol, as the area is a known high crime area.
- *Place garbage bins at access points to the riverfront:* this will provide a place for people to deposit garbage, and reinforce that the riverfront is a McDonald Park and Kamloops amenity.



Issue 5: High Crime Areas, particularly at Lilac Ave and Carson Crescent.

The intersection of Lilac Ave and Carson Crescent has some of the highest incidences of crime and police visits in the McDonald Park neighbourhood. It is a relatively poorly lit area, with little pedestrian activity, and low levels of through traffic. It has the potential to be one of the best locations in the neighbourhood, but it

is not a place that residents enjoy visiting. The features of this part of the neighbourhood should be celebrated, not ignored.

Objective

To reduce incidents of crime at Lilac and Carson Crescent and to beautify the neighbourhood

Strategies and Recommendations

- *Extend the Rivers Trail*: extending the Rivers Trail to the end of Lilac Ave where it will connect with the dyke to McArthur Island will increase bike and pedestrian traffic through the neighbourhood. Increasing both the active and passive use of spaces is an effective tool to reduce criminal activity.
- *Improve lighting and visibility of streets and in building entranceways*: this is a successful CPTED technique. Increased lighting improves visibility and discourages potential criminal behaviour, especially if entranceways and areas around the buildings are well lit and visible from the street and neighbours. See the *Lighting* section later in this chapter.
- *Redesign streets to define public and private spaces*: see the *Street Improvements* section in Neighbourhood Design and Beautification.
- *Increase police presence*: establish regular drive-bys of Lilac Ave and Carson Crescent.

Traffic Safety

Traffic Safety is a serious concern in the McDonald Park neighbourhood. As the neighbourhood is adjacent to Tranquille Rd and there are no traffic calming measures, there is a great deal of high-speed traffic and shortcutting through the neighbourhood. There is also a



shortage of sidewalks, crosswalks and lighting at key locations throughout the neighbourhood, affecting pedestrian comfort and safety.

Issue 6: Shortcutting from Tranquille Rd along Mackenzie Ave, Thrupp St, and Royal Ave, resulting in speeding.

High traffic volumes exploit the roads of the McDonald Park neighbourhood as a shortcut to avoid Tranquille Market, the busiest section of Tranquille Road. There are more traffic lights in this section of Tranquille, as well as crosswalks, pedestrians, and parking cars. The alternative is to drive along Mackenzie Ave, Thrupp St, and Royal Ave to by-pass the Market. There are no lights or any traffic calming measures of any kind through the McDonald Park neighbourhood. As a consequence, traffic volume and speed is high, as is the frequency of accidents.

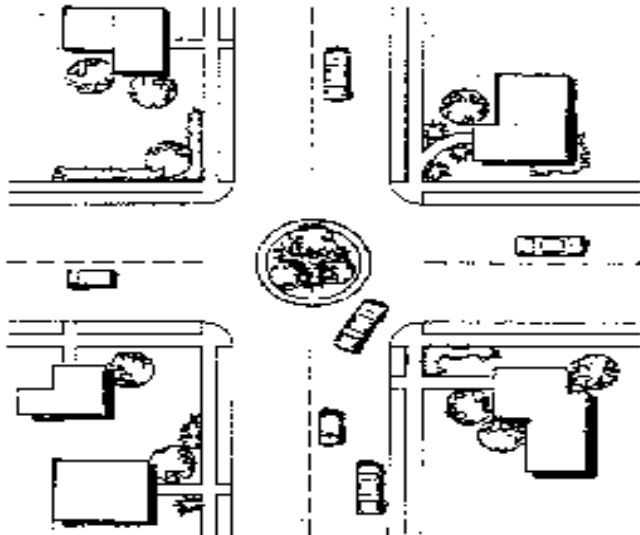
Objective

To slow traffic and eliminate shortcutting through the McDonald Park neighbourhood.

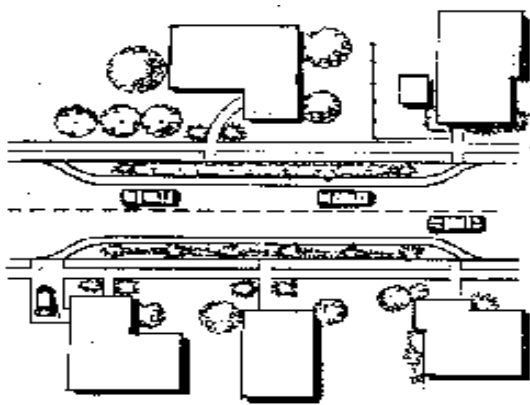
Strategies and Recommendations

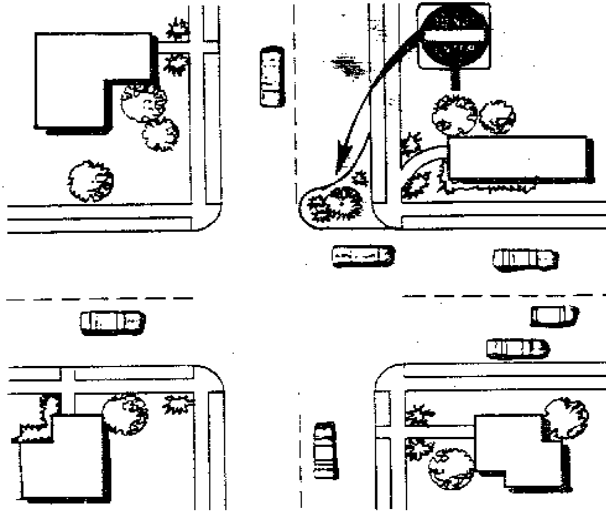
- *Establish a Speed Watch program on Mackenzie Ave, Thrupp St, and Royal Ave:* Speed Watch is an ICBC-sponsored program designed to make drivers more aware of the speeds they are travelling. Community volunteers use portable radar equipment and an electronic digital board to monitor speeds in neighbourhoods where local residents have reported incidents of unsafe speed to the police. Drivers get instant feedback, as their speed is displayed as they pass by. The volunteers return records to the police to help with enforcement planning. Contact Greg Wirch at the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia, (604)952-3314, for more information.

- *Place traffic circles at specific intersections:* encourage traffic to remain on Tranquille. Make it more difficult to pass through the McDonald Park neighbourhood by placing traffic circles at:
 - Royal Ave and Park St
 - Royal Ave and Thrupp St
 - Royal Ave and Ross St
 - Royal Ave and Knox St
 - Thrupp St and McDonald Ave



- *Place garden bulges on Thrupp St, Royal Ave, Park St, Ross St, and Knox St:* garden bulges will not only slow traffic, but will provide opportunities for community gardens or xeriscaping.





- *Place traffic diverter at Mackenzie Island and Yew:* a diverter here will reduce shortcutting along Mackenzie Ave between Yew St and Tranquille Rd, making it less attractive to shortcut through the neighbourhood.
- *Place traffic diverters at Knox St and Campbell Ave and at Angus and the laneway behind the village, between McDonald Ave and Campbell Ave:* to discourage vehicles from shortcutting through the neighbourhood.
- *Place speed humps at locations throughout the McDonald Park neighbourhood:* speed humps slow traffic. Two areas in particular that could benefit from speed humps are the roads surrounding McDonald Park (McDonald Ave, Park St and King St), and, especially, along Royal Ave.
- *Reclaim the Streets!:* use psychological tools to reinforce to drivers that this is a neighbourhood. Create home-made banners and signs at strategic locations in the neighbourhood to remind drivers that families and children live here, too. This technique has been highly successful in the Mountainview-Kensington Cedar Cottage neighbourhood of Vancouver. Contact Anne Roberts, Councillor (City of Vancouver) for more information:
anne_roberts@city.vancouver.bc.ca

Issue 7: Unsafe pedestrian environment, due to traffic concerns and fears of criminal activity.

Many of the busiest streets in the McDonald Park neighbourhood do not have any crosswalks or sidewalks. Instead, pedestrians are forced to walk on narrow shoulders on the side of the road, and often in places where visibility is poor, particularly at Thrupp St and Royal Ave. Creating a safe pedestrian environment is crucial to fostering safety and well-being in the McDonald Park neighbourhood.

Objective

To increase the number of sidewalks, improve the pedestrian environment and bring more people out on to the streets



Strategies and Recommendations

- *Provide sidewalks along Lilac Ave, Poplar St, Alexander St, Willow St, and Thrupp St: make it safer for residents to walk in the neighbourhood. This will also narrow the streets and slow vehicles down.*
- *Place a crosswalk at Mackenzie Ave and Poplar St*
- *Place a crosswalk sign at Mackenzie Ave and Holway St: the existing crosswalk is not marked with a signpost.*

Transportation

Transportation plays a vital role in establishing the framework upon which a neighbourhood is developed and defined. Transportation systems enable people

to move about the neighbourhood and other sections of the community. It involves the movement of goods and a means for people to travel for work, school, shopping, recreation and social contacts. Transportation refers to the system, which enables movement, such as streets, transit, sidewalks, trails and bicycles. It also refers to the quantity and quality of transportation services available to a particular type of user under particular conditions. It might also mean accessibility, which is the ability to reach desired goods, services, activities and destinations.



BC Transit in Kamloops



Translink Community Shuttle

Issue 8: Improve transit access.

Members of the community have some concerns with regards to access to transit systems. In particular, members of the community have identified the infrequent bus service or lack transit access to Poplar St and Thrupp St. While the city has recently increased the schedule of the Parkcrest Route, the concern is that the new service does not provide access where it is most needed. The location of the route, along Cottonwood Ave and Willow Street, means residents on Royal Ave, Lilac Ave, and Alexander Ave have to travel long distances to catch the bus.

Objective

To develop a transportation system that meets the needs of residents by improving the quality, accessibility, and frequency of transit service for students, workers, and

seniors as well as for residents of the neighbourhood.

Strategies and Recommendations

- *Add new service between Thrupp St and Royal Ave:* the current transit system does not run through the entire neighbourhood. The neighbourhood is served by one route only, Parkcrest Route # 2, which leaves Tranquille Rd and Mackenzie Ave. Since there is a high concentration of seniors and students in the area, additional services that move more people are required.
- *Introduce Community Shuttle Service:* one cost-effective way of increasing the transit service in the neighbourhood would be to introduce community shuttle mini-buses. Full-size buses may, furthermore, be too big for neighbourhood streets so it is ideal for community shuttle service. Examples of such a service can be found throughout the Lower Mainland, including Burnaby Heights and the Tri-Cities area. For more information on the community shuttle service, visit TransLink's *Community Shuttles* web site: www.translink.bc.ca/Service_Info_and_Fares/Buses/Community_Shuttles/

Connectivity

Connectivity refers to how efficiently a road or pedestrian network connects. A great neighbourhood has many choices for moving to, from, and within it. It is easy to move about on foot, or by bicycle, transit, and auto. Connectivity introduces a compact urban structure based on walkable towns and neighbourhoods, and the interconnecting of street patterns to facilitate all modes of movement. Residents are encouraged to walk because facilities and amenities can be provided in reasonable proximity to most houses, and routes are made direct, safe, amenable and interesting.

Issue 9: Poor connectivity and access to commercial areas and to schools

One of the main issues that the community has identified in regards to connectivity is access to shops in the Tranquille Market shopping district. Access is difficult for people without a car, including the young, the elderly, and people with disabilities that prevent them from driving. These people are isolated from essential facilities.

Objective

To improve connectivity and neighbourhood networks, including the walkability and accessibility to commercial centres and schools.

Strategies and Recommendations

- *Improve the connection between Tranquille Rd and Mackenzie Ave by paving Poplar and Willow Streets.*
- *Improve access between Tranquille Rd, John Tod Elementary and Mt. Paul's United Church by providing sidewalks and installing children's crossing signs*

Lighting

Lighting is considered to be poor in the McDonald Park neighbourhood. Residents do not feel safe walking the streets of the neighbourhood in the evening. While much of the neighbourhood is well lit, there are areas that are poorly lit, and contribute to the overall perception of the McDonald Park neighbourhood as a dark and unsafe neighbourhood.



Issue 9: Poor street-lighting on neighbourhood streets and in McDonald Park.

Similar to the previous section on the importance of providing sidewalks, the provision of lighting is necessary to improve the pedestrian environment and create a community where residents feel safe and comfortable walking at night. Though lighting is *generally* good in the neighbourhood, there are areas of particular need that should be targeted for improvements. By improving the lighting in these areas, residents will feel safer walking through the neighbourhood.

Objective

To improve lighting on streets and back lanes, and increase the perceived safety of neighbourhood streets

Strategies and Recommendations

- *Light up the night!:* one of the best deterrents to crime is visibility. Improvements in neighbourhood lighting have been shown to correspond with reductions in local crime by increasing the likelihood of a witness to an activity. It also helps people feel more comfortable walking at night, and can reduce night-time road accidents by 30%. Street lamps on roads and back lanes are an obvious answer. Residents can help, too. By turning on front and backyard lights, and by installing a motion-activated or photosensitive spotlight to the exterior of homes, not only do residents increase the visibility of the exterior of their homes, they can also provide increased safety for pedestrians.
- *Install better lighting throughout the McDonald Park neighbourhood:* the following is a list of areas that have been identified as most in need of lighting.
 - o Mackenzie Ave at Carson Crescent, Willow St, and Yew St



- o Thrupp St at Carson Crescent, Royal Ave, and Lilac Ave
- o Lilac Ave at Heather St
- o Dogwood Ave
- o Yew St between Tranquille Rd and Mackenzie Ave
- o McDonald Park, at all corners
- o Royal Ave, at Park St, Knox St, and halfway between King St and Ross St
- o Ross St. at Alexander Ave
- o Campbell Ave
- o King St
- o Laneway behind The Village
- *Install LED lights in back lanes:* back lanes in the McDonald Park neighbourhood are very poorly lit, and are trouble spots for criminal activity, particularly sexual acts by prostitutes. Increasing lighting in back lanes can serve as a deterrent for criminal activity. BC Hydro is developing a lighting program using LED (light emitting diodes) lights, which are more energy efficient and have lower maintenance costs. While they are not yet approved for streets with vehicular traffic, opportunities exist in back-lanes and parks to use LED lights. The City of Quesnel uses LED lighting, donated to the city by BC Hydro, for the Fraser River Footbridge. This is a partnership opportunity that the City of Kamloops should develop.
- *Repair broken lights:* an issue in the neighbourhood is the presence of broken street lights. Maintenance should be increased, and residents need to be made aware of who to contact to deal with this issue. Police officers could also make note of lighting conditions on patrol, and make recommendations.



Issue 10: Improving neighbourhood image with lighting.

Improving the quality of neighbourhood lighting can greatly improve the image and beauty of a place, and can help a neighbourhood be more comfortable for residents and visitors at night.

Light fixtures are valuable components of neighbourhood design. They can be used to mark or distinguish certain places from others. The McDonald Park neighbourhood features two styles of lights. Larger (approximately 7m tall) light standards that help illuminate traffic on the streets and smaller (approximately 4m tall) light standards with globe-shaped fixtures on top of green poles. The smaller standards are used in McDonald Park and McArthur Island as well as along the Rivers Trail. The consistency of their use in park settings helps to distinguish public parks as special places.



As opportunities arise to improve the design of streets and parks in the neighbourhood, the City should continue to use unique fixtures in parks. Its use can help to identify a place or a street as being more pedestrian/cyclist friendly and improve the general quality of the area. These fixtures would be particularly appropriate along Lilac Ave should the Rivers Trail project go there.

Objective

To use lighting to identify special places and improve the overall design of the neighbourhood.

Strategies and Recommendations

- *Use park-style lighting fixtures along Rivers Trail on Lilac Ave:* this will mark the route, and connect McDonald Park with McArthur Island

NEIGHBOURHOOD DESIGN AND BEAUTIFICATION

The McDonald Park neighbourhood is one of the oldest neighbourhoods in Kamloops. Many of the homes are older character homes with unique gardens and features. The neighbourhood is situated riverside at a low elevation and enjoys an earlier spring than the rest of Kamloops. Many of the private gardens and fruit trees in the community are remnants of the neighbourhood's previous life as orchard and agricultural land. These strengths contribute to the positive image and quality of the neighbourhood, helping the community to be a pleasant and liveable place.

There are also, however, some weaknesses in the design and aesthetic (or "look") of the neighbourhood. These shortcomings can cause feelings of being unsafe, or may detract from the overall quality of life for residents and visitors alike. Through the McDonald Park neighbourhood planning process, the community identified the design and beautification possibilities of the neighbourhood as a key issue. Lighting, road improvements, stormwater, utilities, landscaping, parking, and park design were identified.

Park Design

Issue 1: Re-designing McDonald Park to better suit the neighbourhood.

In terms of public space and amenity, McDonald Park is easily the most important feature of the neighbourhood. It is a unique characteristic not seen in other Kamloops' neighbourhoods and helps to distinguish this community from the rest of the city. A park that reflects the needs and interests of the community is an invaluable element of a liveable neighbourhood. There is also an opportunity to create a new park at the Lilac Ave access point to the Rivers Trail.

On Feb. 7, 2004 a neighbourhood design charrette was held at the Parkview

McDonald Park Neighbourhood Plan

Activity Centre. Neighbourhood residents, city staff, and design professionals worked with the McDonald Park Planning Team to create a design vision for two key study areas: McDonald Park and the riverside lot at the western terminus of Lilac Ave.



The day involved dialogue and debate as to how best incorporate the principles of liveability and sustainability—and by doing so, meeting the needs of the community—in two parcels of city land. A total of 24 participants were divided into two groups.

Each group focused on one of the study areas for the entire day.

The morning session involved a short introduction as to the goals of a design charrette. It was pointed out that the exercise was meant to provide residents and city staff with a clearer vision of the opportunities and constraints associated with improving the neighbourhood parks. While participants were aware that every improvement would bear a particular cost, the issue of budgeting was to remain outside the focus of the day. The charrette was a brainstorming session, meant to generate, not limit options.

The results represent a shared vision, not a plan. Implementing elements of the charrette designs into the parks will require a budgeting and priority exercise to ensure that what is most valuable to the community can be implemented early on in the park's future.

For greater detail regarding the results of the McDonald Park and Lilac Ave. charrettes of Feb. 7, 2004, please see Appendix II.

Objective

To improve the design of neighbourhood parks to meet the needs and expectations of the community.

Strategies and Recommendations: Lilac Ave access to Rivers Trail

- *Incorporate the Rivers Trail onto Lilac Ave. and the riverside lots at its western terminus*
- *Prohibit vehicular access to the “Sunset Viewpoint” site: a possible solution would be a grade change.*
- *Program some of the “Sunset Viewpoint” site for passive uses.*
- *Provide trees for shade and beauty.*
- *Place a gazebo at the river's edge: the gazebo should serve as protection from the weather and as a magnet to attract users into the park.*
- *Create a secondary trail close to the river.*
- *Use signage to promote ecological education about the area or site history.*
- *Landscape the area: include a xeriscape garden or butterfly flower garden.*

Strategies and Recommendations: McDonald Park

- *Addition of community art features throughout park*
- *Gateways to mark the entrance paths to the park: with the main entrance being located at the end of Holway Street on McDonald Ave.*
- *Additional power sources should be added throughout the park.*
- *The construction of a covered band shell type structure: at grade, to be used for music/entertainment/picnic functions.*
- *New fence around McDonald Park: the chain link fencing running the perimeter of the park should be replaced with bollards, which will make the park more inviting, and are designed to accommodate seating.*
- *Replace chessboard: the chess board area should be replaced with a community garden area that can showcase blooming flowers and shrubs and create an opportunity for a community art installation (e.g. bear sculpture).*
- *Increase number of picnic tables and shaded benches.*

Street Improvements

Issue 2: Streets are unattractive and poorly designed.



Streets and the street right-of way represent a large portion of the public realm in any neighbourhood. The good design and beautification of the streets is an important step towards improving the visual appearance of the McDonald Park neighbourhood. Opportunities exist to improve sidewalks, street paving, and vegetation alongside the street. Also, some streets may require special design treatment as

they are major routes through the community. These streets include Mackenzie Ave. (a route for vehicular and bus through traffic) and Lilac and Royal Avenues (a part of the Rivers Trail project).

Objective

To design streets that reflect a positive image of the neighbourhood

As residents and visitors of the McDonald Park neighbourhood travel throughout the community, they constantly see the street. Streets with cracked, broken pavement convey an image of an old, broken community. Newly paved and well maintained streets can, on the other hand, express a positive, more beautiful neighbourhood. A stated goal of *KAMPLAN 1997* is to “develop and maintain an aesthetically appealing urban environment to enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.”

The *McDonald Park Neighbourhood Project* identified a priority listing of streets that need paving. While it is recommended that the city refer to these priorities, it is also understood that significant cost-saving can occur by joining infrastructural improvements and street paving projects. For example, co-ordinate underground utility maintenance with street paving.

McDonald Park Neighbourhood Plan

The community identified and prioritised 10 streets that are in need of improvement. Many of the streets have also been identified and rated by the City of Kamloops. The street quality has been expressed according to a Pavement Quality Index (PQI). Based on the PQI ratings, some of the neighbourhood streets are already slated for improvement.

street improvement priorities as expressed by the community	current conditions as express by the PQI and rehabilitation year estimate
1. Poplar Street	1. <i>unavailable</i>
2. Dogwood Avenue	2. GRAVEL- 2004
3. Rose Avenue	3. 9.2- >2008
4. Park Street	4. 3.1- 2008
5. Lilac Avenue	5. <i>west half</i> : 4.6- >2008 <i>east half</i> : 6.8- >2008
6. Carson Crescent (east-west)	6. 2.7- 2006
7. Carson Crescent (north-south)	7. 2.7- 2006
8. Holway Street	8. 2.3- 2005
9. Thrupp Street (from Mackenzie to Royal)	9. 2.8- 2006
10. Back lane along Royal (from Park to King)	10. <i>not indicated</i>

Table 1- Street improvement priorities as expressed by the community and the PQI

The street improvements priorities that were established by the community relate to the pavement quality as well as the quality of design and comfort level. Although streets in need of repaving can be significantly improved by simple rehabilitation, this may not fully address the concerns of the community.

Street improvement concerns of the MPPT should be coordinated with ongoing city improvements. Street rehabilitation slated to occur in the next five years according to the PQI should be carried out. Also, the following recommendations should be met as a component of the *McDonald Park Neighbourhood Project*.

MCDONALD PARK PROJECT PAVING PRIORITIES

Top Priority	Secondary Priorities
1. Poplar Street	1. Lilac Ave 2. Park St. 3. Back lane along Royal (from Park to King)

Table 2- McDonald Park Project Paving Priorities

Strategies and Recommendations

Pave Streets according to identified priorities indicated in Table 2

Issue 3: Streets lack sidewalks and clear edges defining public and private space.

Sidewalks contribute to the positive image of a neighbourhood by emphasizing that streets are for people. Good sidewalk and street edge design can improve many features of the community. Permeable surfaces (provided they are adequate for wheeled users) can improve the functioning of the street. Defined edges with organised street parking can improve the image of the street. A swale system can accommodate run-off from the surface of streets as well as providing an opportunity for vegetation and the “greening” of streets.



Objective

To create better sidewalks and street edges

Strategies and Recommendations

Better sidewalks and edges along Lilac Ave, Royal Ave, Campbell Ave, Alexander Ave, Rose Ave, Carson Crescent, and Poplar St: the street edge along Royal Ave in

McDonald Park Neighbourhood Plan

particular needs to be improved to meet the needs of the Rivers Trail. See attached table.

EDGE TREATMENT PRIORITIES IN THE McDONALD PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD

1. Top Priorities	Lilac Ave
	Royal Ave, to meet needs of Rivers Trail
	Alexander Ave
	Carson Cres (near Lilac)
	Poplar St
2. Secondary Priority	Rose St.

Table 3 – Edge Treatment Priorities in the McDonald Park Neighbourhood



Possible treatment 1

A variety of *edge treatment designs* may be suitable for this neighbourhood. These might include 3 m wide swales on both sides of the street filled with natural vegetation or swales which would be separated from the street by 1-1.5m edge of concrete to delineate the separation of swale and street. The *edge treatment design* should be determined based on street right-of-way and desired usage.



Possible treatment 2

Issue 4: Lack of vegetation and street trees.

Street trees are an effective and relatively inexpensive way of beautifying a community. Trees should be selected that are native to the area and can easily tolerate the climatic conditions of Kamloops. Using a single type of tree along the streets of McDonald Park could help to visually unify the neighbourhood. If the selected tree is unique to the neighbourhood then the trees can also help to identify the boundaries of the neighbourhood.



Objective

To increase vegetation throughout the neighbourhood

Strategies and Recommendations

Plant street trees: along Poplar St and Royal Ave. Possible species include western catalpa, green ash, thornless honey locust, mulberry, bur oak, or black locust. These species are listed under the City of Kamloops' "Water Conservation" web page as being suitable for the local climatic conditions and over 10 m in height. The western catalpa and black locust might be particularly attractive as they feature ornamental flowers.

For more information, visit the web page at: www.city.kamloops.bc.ca/water/conservation/xeriscape.html

Issue 5: McDonald Park neighbourhood has no visual image or identity.

Mackenzie Ave is a major route people use to get to McArthur Island. For many, this may be the only part of the McDonald Park neighbourhood they ever see. Improving

McDonald Park Neighbourhood Plan

the visual quality of Mackenzie Ave can help to improve the overall image of the neighbourhood. This can be done through the use of banners, street trees, as well as improved sidewalks and street paving.

Objective

To identify and mark main arterials, and create a visual image for the McDonald Park neighbourhood

Strategies and Recommendations

- *Hang artistic banners along Mackenzie Ave and around McDonald Park: change them seasonally. This may be an opportunity to harness the creativity of John Tod elementary students or Norkam secondary students.*



Issue 6: Completing the Rivers Trail, and connecting the McDonald Park neighbourhood to the rest of Kamloops.

The section of the Rivers Trail from Tranquille Rd along Mackenzie Ave to MacArthur Park has yet to be completed. Doing so will get residents out onto the neighbourhood's streets, bring visitors through the area, and enhance the image of the McDonald Park neighbourhood. The Rivers Trail project is an exceptional example of how public space can be managed to improve the look and liveability of a city.

Objective

To accommodate pedestrian and bicycle traffic along the Rivers Trail, and showcasing McDonald Park to Kamloops

Strategies and Recommendations

- *Route Rivers Trail along Lilac and Royal:* while the Rivers Trail runs alongside most of Kamloops' waterfront, it does not run through McDonald Park. Because of the age of the properties in the neighbourhood, riverside lots do not include public right-of-ways. The Rivers Trail should be routed along Lilac Ave and Royal Ave.



As part of the *McDonald Park Neighbourhood Project*, a design charrette was held to discuss possible street treatments along Lilac Ave that would help to beautify the street and accommodate pedestrians and cyclists. The design allows for two lanes of local traffic, 3m of swale (to accommodate drainage and provide space for vegetation), and 3m of Rivers Trail that could accommodate a variety of users (pedestrians, cyclists, wheelchair users, rollerbladers)

Issue 7: Improving the sustainability of the existing street network, while meeting the neighbourhood's transportation needs.

As streets are repaved in the McDonald Park neighbourhood, particular attention should be paid to keeping the paved, vehicular portion of the street to a minimal width. This means decreased amounts of surface run-off will need to be managed, more room for pedestrians and other users, slower traffic conditions, and an increased opportunity for greening the streets.

Objective

McDonald Park Neighbourhood Plan

To minimize paved surface on streets for improved ecological performance, yet meeting the neighbourhood's transportation requirements.

Strategies and Recommendations

Minimize paved street surface during repaving of streets

Parking

Issue 8: Poorly defined street parking.



Cars currently park in an unorganised fashion along many of the streets in the McDonald Park neighbourhood. This causes the streets to seem fragmented and visually unappealing.

Objective

To beautify streets by addressing issues of parking.

Streets that facilitate parallel parking help to keep the neighbourhood more attractive. The lack of a clear distinction between the public and private realm, as well as the wide width of the street and street shoulders leads individuals to park their vehicles in different ways. Cars parked close to the shoulder, in a parallel fashion helps to keep streets visually appealing.

Strategies and Recommendations

Allow for clearly delineated parallel parking spaces on neighbourhood streets

Stormwater

Issue 11: Dealing with stormwater management in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Water is the fundamental driving force that shapes the land around us. This is especially true of places like Kamloops that experience dramatic, concentrated rainfall events. Any kind of stormwater management has design implications, but conventional stormwater management places it under the ground and largely away from eyes. Sustainable stormwater management practices mimic natural systems, thereby helping the earth deal with precipitation as it was intended and minimising management, construction costs and liability. Sustainable stormwater management also brings the water closer to the surface, so that we can see our relationship with water; it is therefore highly educational.

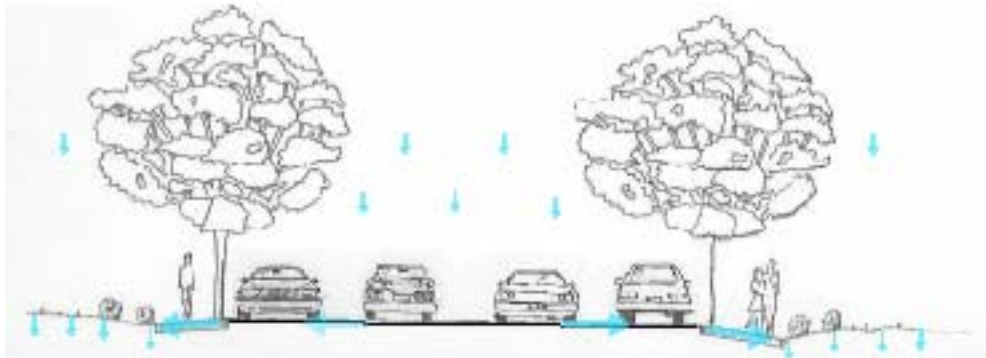
The McDonald Park Neighbourhood's soil is sandy and is capable of quickly filtering water back into the ground. Allowing water to enter the ground across a vast area of permeable surface is an optimal design solution to sustainably managing stormwater. Typical treatment of stormwater would involve curbing the streets, providing street drains, and providing an underground pipe system to discharge the collected rainwater. This results in a concentration of contaminants and water (e.g., oil drippings from cars on the street) into a single stream that is released into larger bodies of water causing environmental hardship and increasing construction and maintenance costs.

A more favourable, more sustainable solution would be to collect stormwater where it falls and let it seep back into the ground in a dispersed fashion. By utilising the unique drainage capabilities of McDonald Park's soil, but still attending to the extreme rainfall events that the neighbourhood experiences, a less expensive and more ecological sound solution could be found.

Objective

To develop a sustainable design strategy for the collection of storm water

Strategies and Recommendations



- *Use a swale system without curbs to disperse stormwater collection throughout the site: swales are strips of unpaved surface between the streets and the sidewalks. These swales would be angled towards a slight depression in the centre of them allowing water to collect (in most cases, water would seep into the ground before pooling). Swales may include significant vegetation, helping to “green” and beautify the community.*

Utilities and Public Works

Issue 12: Co-ordinating neighbourhood beautification, public works and utilities.

Properties containing utility boxes (on Mackenzie Ave and on Royal Ave) can be visually improved. Although it is not derelict, it is sparse and vacant (except for the box itself). Because these boxes are located alongside a main traffic route in the neighbourhood, it presents an opportunity to improve the image of the McDonald Park neighbourhood to the rest of Kamloops. Any form of simple landscaping here would be an improvement. Coordination needs to occur with BC Hydro so as to maintain the accessibility of these utility boxes.

McDonald Park Neighbourhood Plan

Objective

To coordinate efforts between the city and utilities to help beautify the neighbourhood.

Strategies and Recommendations

Landscape sites along Mackenzie Ave and Royal Ave with the public utility boxes

Issue 13: Beautify the neighbourhood by removing yellow trash bins from public realm



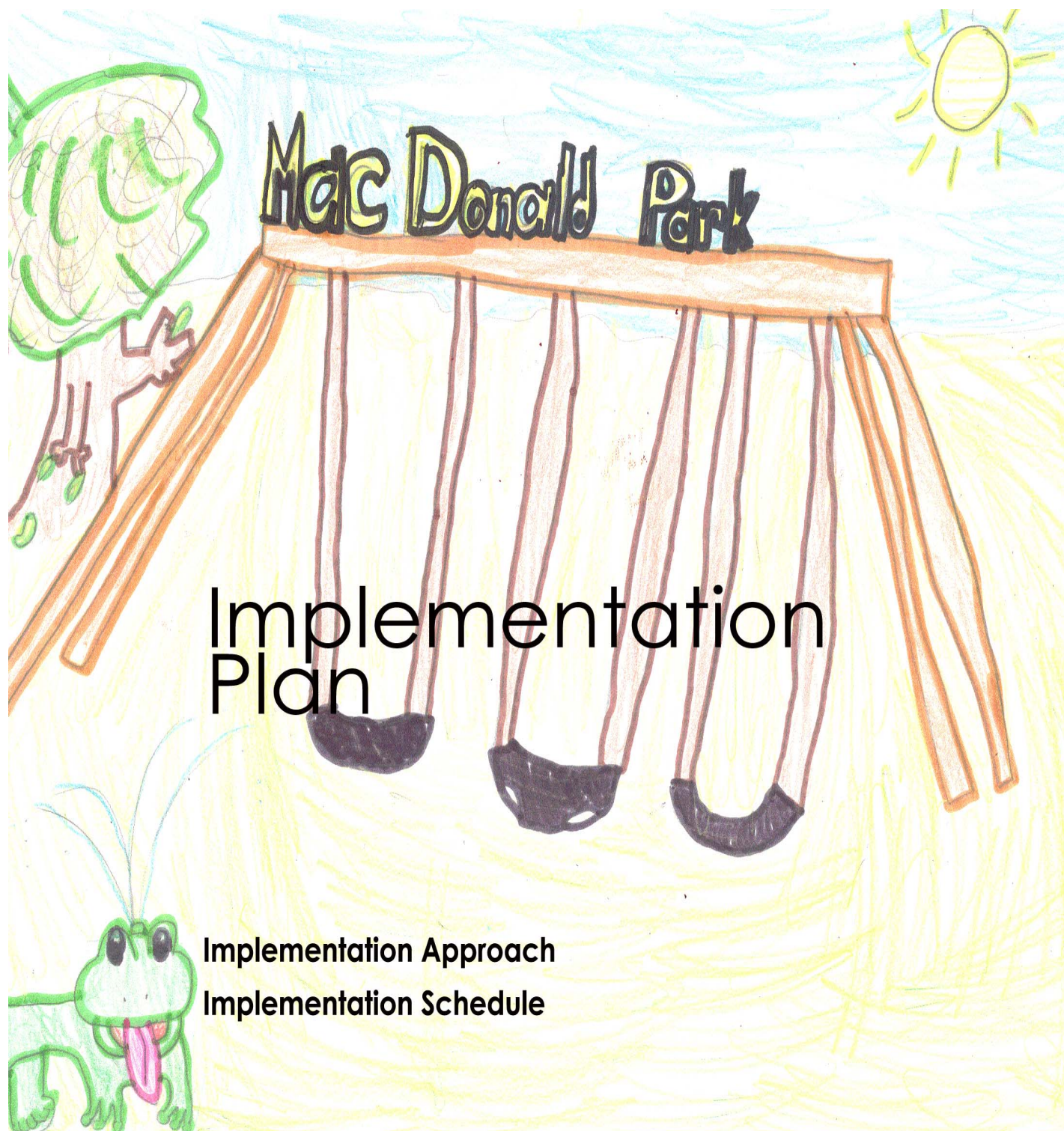
Large yellow trash bins are located on Lilac Ave. It is the City of Kamloops' policy to have trash containers kept on the property to which the bins belong. These yellow trash containers are highly visible (partly due to their size, partly due to their bright yellow colour). By placing them on the properties for which they serve a function, the appearance of Lilac Ave will dramatically improve.

Objective

To coordinate efforts between the city trash collection and property owners to allow for trash bins to be removed from the street

Strategies and Recommendations

Remove yellow trash bins from Lilac Ave and place them on the properties to which they serve



IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

The McDonald Park Neighbourhood Plan is a collaborative project between the residents of McDonald Park, the City of Kamloops and the *McDonald Park Planning Team* comprised of students from the University of British Columbia. The *Neighbourhood Plan* is a collection of concerns and issues put forth by the involved parties over many working sessions and open houses. The *Neighbourhood Plan* goes beyond mere collection, however, and represents a collective vision for the neighbourhood, and outlines recommendations and designs on how to achieve that vision.

The *Neighbourhood Plan* outlines many recommendations for improving the quality of life in the neighbourhood, from the organisation of community events to physical design improvements. These recommendations are options and suggestions on how the neighbourhood can develop. It does not suppose that the recommended improvements will become a reality at once, or that adequate funding is in place to implement all the recommendations immediately. Rather, it is intended that this plan guide actions taken over a number of years, to improve the physical character, safety and sense of community in the neighbourhood.

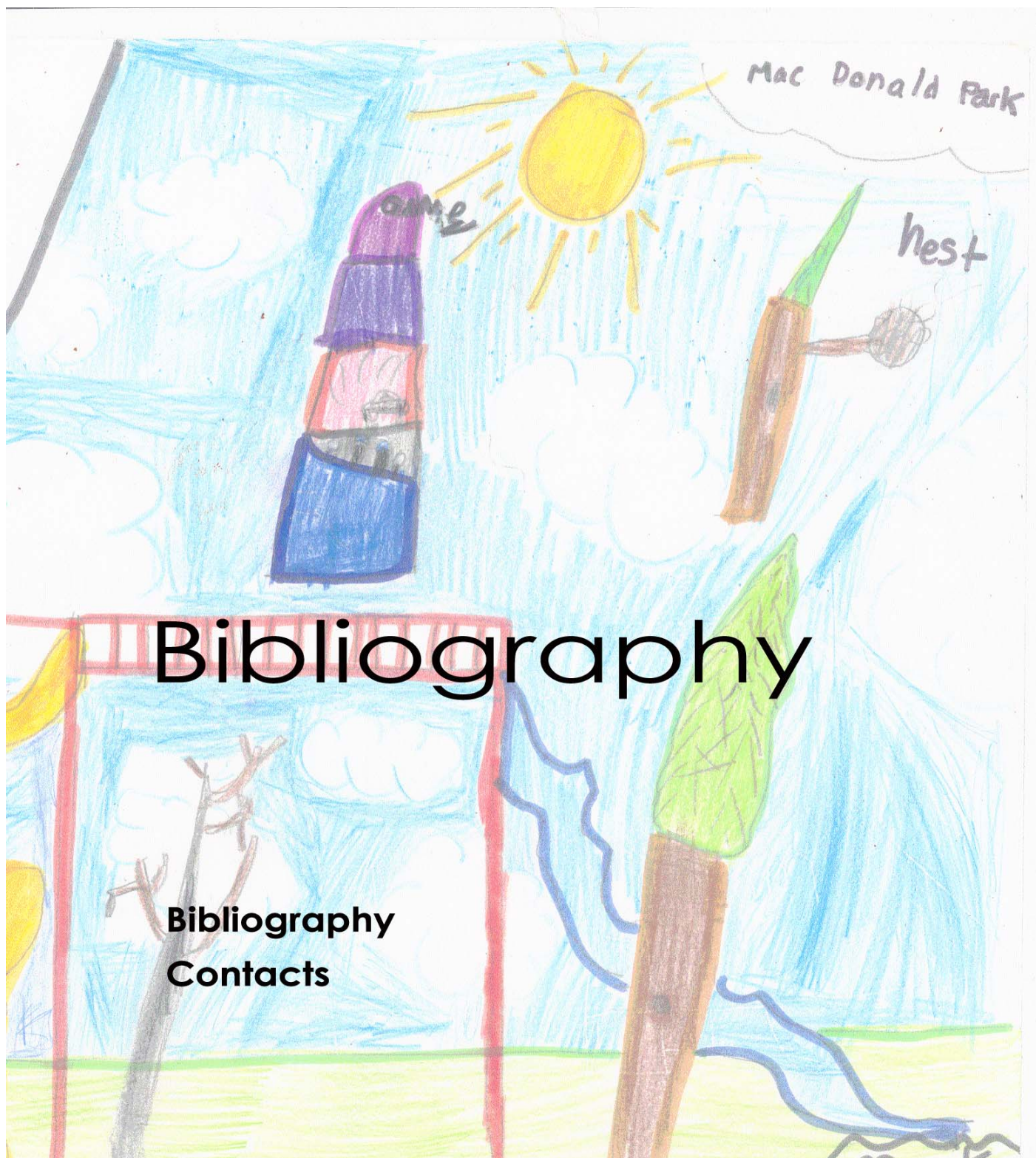
The City of Kamloops has the authority and the financial capital to implement most of the recommendations in this plan. However, it is understood that financial limitations, budgetary constraints or further assessments will require that elements within this plan be implemented over a five-to-ten year period. It is imperative that the City maintain the connections made with the neighbourhood residents throughout the implementation of the plan. This involvement will ensure the success of the plan as well as allow further projects to be implemented in this community.

The neighbourhood residents will play a significant part in the successful implementation of this plan. The energy and initiative of residents to take an active part in the future of their neighbourhood will be the difference between the state of the neighbourhood today and the neighbourhood they envision tomorrow. The participation of the residents in lobbying council for change, participating in neighbourhood groups, and organising community events will ensure that change will happen.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

The following tables outline the implementation schedule for each priority recommendation made in this plan. The table identifies the recommended policies and actions in this plan in summary form and identifies what action is necessary to complete this action. As well, the table indicates the City department responsible for implementing the recommendation, and identifies its priority as recommended by residents of the neighbourhood and through analysis by the McDonald Park Planning Team. Additionally, the table gives the recommended time frame and cost of implementation.

The recommendations are organized according to their placement within the elements of this plan; community identity, neighbourhood safety, and neighbourhood design and beautification.



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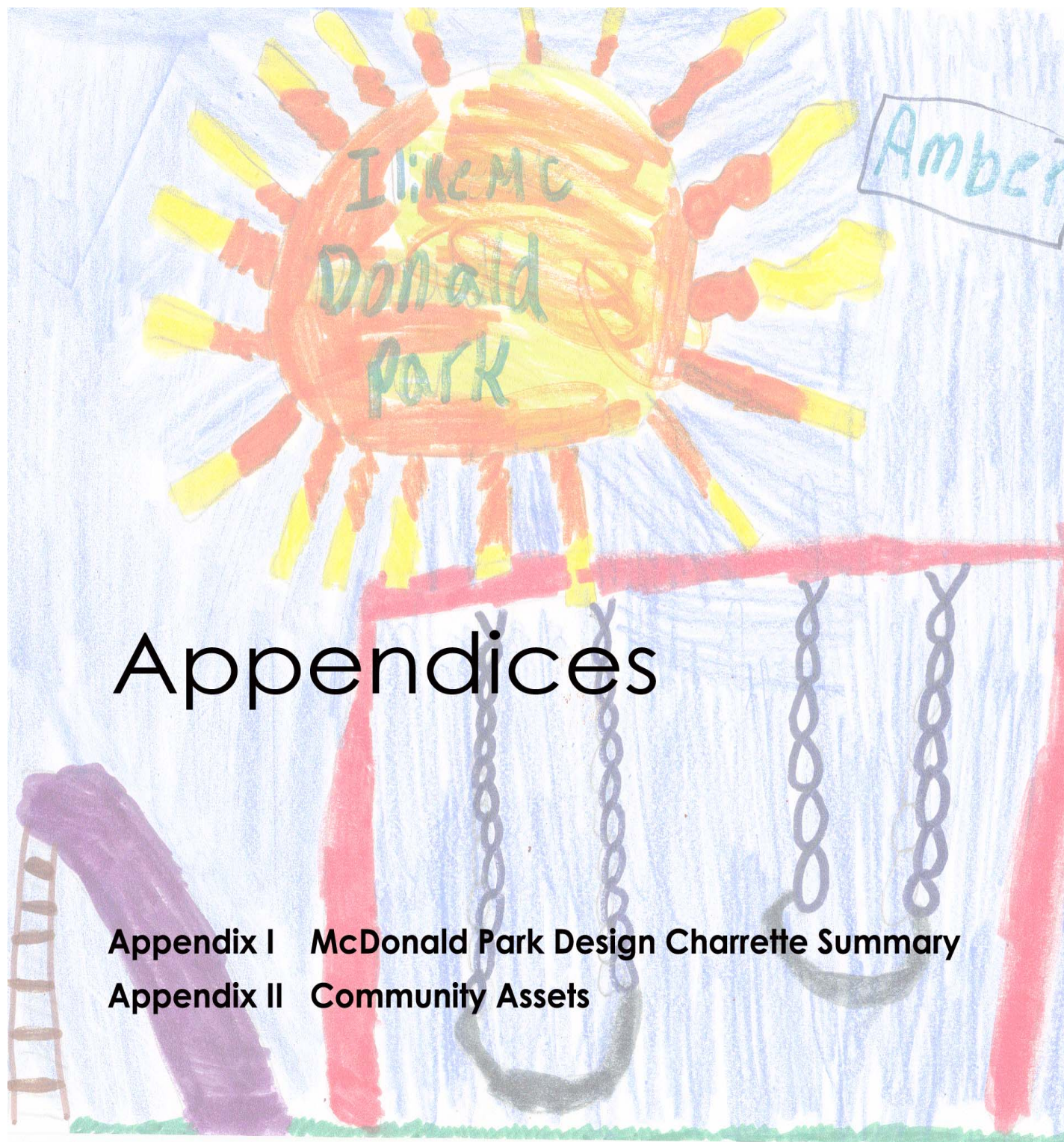


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Planning Team Profile Summary:

The Planning Team Members that have compiled this neighbourhood plan have a wide diversity of background and experience. The following is a brief synopsis of skills and related planning experience that were drawn upon to bring this neighbourhood plan together.

Energy planning	Low-income housing
Environmental planning	Environmental & urban design
Transportation design	Non-profit management
Policy analysis	Design charrette
Capacity building	Women's health
Asset and cognitive mapping	Community economic development
Quantitative and qualitative data analysis	Inner-city neighbourhood planning
Geographical Information Systems (GIS)	Community outreach
Residential site planning	Population economics
Heritage planning	Population demographics research
Teaching/Education	Social planning
Facilitation/Mediation	
Resource management	
Parks planning	
Land-use planning	



Appendices

Appendix I McDonald Park Design Charrette Summary

Appendix II Community Assets

APPENDIX I: McDONALD PARK DESIGN CHARRETTE

McDONALD PARK

The jewel of the McDonald Park neighbourhood is indeed the park itself. It is a major amenity for residents and visitors of the neighbourhood. There are several strong attributes in the park, including a children's playground, a community swimming pool and water park, three basketball courts, mature trees and washroom facilities. The under-utilized features of the park include a human scale chess board and a horseshoe pit. The "natural" area with the mature trees is a shaded area with only two park benches. In fact, the entire park has a very limited number of park benches and picnic tables.

The following recommendations were made during the design charrette held on February 7, 2004. They represent a collection of ideas put forward by the residents of the area who frequently use the park and see the enhancement of park features as a way to strengthen an already cherished neighbourhood park.

Recommendations:

1. Encourage the addition of community art features throughout park
 - Murals on the walls of the pool building/service building/washroom. Engage youth in the creation of the murals
 - Water fountains that reflect the community spirit
 - Locally-built park benches and picnic tables.
2. Establish gateways to mark the entrance to the park. The main entrance should be located at the end of Holway St on McDonald Park. Traffic calming initiatives, a drop off zone and crosswalks could be additional features to enhance this main gateway area.

McDonald Park Neighbourhood Plan

3. Make improvements to the water park area. It should be augmented to create an active and functional space for children. Appropriate seating should be provided surrounding this area for parents to be able to observe children's activity.
4. Parking space should be provided along the alley to facilitate use of pool and basketball courts. This area should be well-lit for safety reasons.
5. Additional power sources should be added throughout the park, allowing for a larger variety of community events.
6. The northwest corner of the park which presently features the mature grouping of trees should be better maintained and landscaped. Dead and dying trees in park should be removed.
7. Additional picnic tables should be added, as there are presently only two in the park.
8. Construct a covered band shell type structure, at grade, to be used for music/entertainment/picnic functions. This structure will be open on all sides for visibility and should be serviced with both water and power sources.
9. Replace the chain link fencing running the perimeter of the park with bollards. The bollards should also be designed to accommodate seating.
10. Utilise storage sheds located by the pool or the Parkview Activity Centre to store materials used by park goers, such as horseshoes.
11. Improve landscaping around the pool area beside the service area at the park's southeast corner. Experiment with landscaping and community art features around the pool as an attempt to soften the security fence.
12. Signpost and create entrances to the park area from Royal Ave, off Park and King Streets.
13. Maintain trails in all seasons.
14. Replace the chess board with a community garden area that can showcase blooming flowers and shrubs and create an opportunity for a community art installation.

LILAC AVENUE

A unique element of the Lilac Avenue focus area is that it included both park and street design. The “park” element of the site is currently a vacant, city owned lot at the western terminus of Lilac Ave. It features no landscaping and only weeds and wild grasses exist as vegetation. However, it is one of only a few areas in the neighbourhood where the general public can access the river. Enhancing the community's access to the river would be a suitable and dramatic improvement for this riverside community. It offers spectacular views westward down the river valley. As a result, the site was referred to as “Sunset Viewpoint.”

The charrette design also incorporated one private lot. For discussion purposes, this lot was seen as a potential asset for the community at large. It is valuable in that it increases the amount of public land located riverside in this historic neighbourhood. The city may want to consider acquiring this lot as it currently is unsuitable for most forms of development and can offer a great park site for the larger community. The site design was flexible, however, and the acquisition of this lot does not supersede the improvements of the site in general.

An important part of this site design was to incorporate the Rivers Trail into the neighbourhood. The Rivers Trail is a successful example of the public realm that is suitable for many users. Lilac Ave's “Sunset Viewpoint” could act as an important point along this trail. Moving westwards, the site is a dramatic return to the riverside (the trail would run along Royal Ave. and Lilac Ave. through the McDonald Park neighbourhood). Moving eastwards, the site would be the gateway to the McDonald Park community. A positive image of this site, an image that residents of the neighbourhood and the rest of Kamloops can be proud of, is of great importance.

One design challenge of this site was to prohibit vehicles from accessing the site. The participants of the charrette were aware that occasionally people drive cars or trucks

McDonald Park Neighbourhood Plan

onto the site and leave behind a great deal of litter and damage to the terrain. If the site were to become a park, the upkeep of the land by prohibiting vehicular access is vital. The solution was to create a grade change of approximately 1 to 1.5 meters from the Lilac Ave. terminus and the park itself. Pedestrians along the Rivers Trail would have easy access along a set of stairs and any wheeled users (cyclists, wheel-chairs, strollers, etc.) could wind there way up a looping ramp. This point can be landscaped to incorporate flowers. It should be well lit.

Another idea of the charrette was to use the park as an attractive alternative for a minority of users on McArthur Island. Participants pointed out that groups often visit McArthur Island because a single member of the group is involved in a sports competition. Other members of the group may be disinterested in that activity and would prefer a peaceful place to read a book or have a picnic (passive uses). The resulting design decision was to leave a significant portion of the site open for passive uses. A grassy field framed by trees and dramatic views of the river was agreed upon as a solution.

Participants also recognised the need for some type of shade or shelter. It was recommended to plant Lilac trees along the northern edge of the site and cottonwoods in the centre. A gazebo or other structure could be built riverside. This structure would provide shade and protection from the weather. It should be placed in such a way as to be visible from Lilac Ave. The visibility of it may entice visitors to continue down the Rivers Trail to the park, drawing people into the space to animate it. Inside the gazebo, a community events postings board may be placed.

A final set of ideas involved having a secondary trail (smaller than the Rivers Trail) running directly along the riverside. Benches can be placed here, particularly on the western edge, to view the river and take in the sunset. Signs can be placed to inform visitors of the ecological activities occurring in the rivers and park or to inform visitors of the neighbourhood's past, helping to make this portion of the Rivers Trail unique to the McDonald Park neighbourhood and continuing to make the Rivers Trail unique to Kamloops. Xeriscaping or butterfly gardens can help make this a pleasant area in the summer.

APPENDIX II: COMMUNITY ASSETS

Below is an inventory of the community's assets as characterised by residents during a community asset mapping exercise held on November 28, 2003.

- Churches
- Thrift shops
- Salvation Army
- Post Office
- Credit Union
- Native Friendship Centre
- Northhills Seniors Centre
- Boys and Girls Club
- Beautiful Gardens around Willow and Poplar
- Community Policing Office
- Movie theatre
- Shopping on Tranquille
- Free parking
- Convenient to downtown
- Community networks and neighbours
- Walkability
- Schools
- Child development centre and daycare (McDonald and Holway)
- Several access points to Thompson River: Lilac Ave, Dee St, and King St.

McDonald Park Neighbourhood Plan

- Climate
- Flat ground
- Community beach along river
- McDonald Park
- Restaurants
- Wharf
- Recreation facilities