



News Release

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New Area Official Community Plans Being Created

Not one, but two new Official Community Plan's (OCP) are being created to help guide land-use planning decisions in rural areas of the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

One OCP will take in the Trepanier and Brent Road areas of the Central Okanagan West Electoral Area while the second will be developed for lands along the South Slopes of the Central Okanagan East Electoral Area including June Springs Estates, south Lakeshore Road and portions of Myra-Bellevue and Okanagan Mountain Provincial Parks.

Communications Coordinator Bruce Smith says, "An Official Community Plan is a bylaw consisting of a series of policies that provide a framework for making land use decisions within a specified area. These are based on the community's vision and help guide future growth and orderly land development and infrastructure. OCP's are used by staff, stakeholders, developers, residents and the Regional Board in evaluating proposed land use changes and ensures that all development conforms to the relevant polices of the Official Community Plan."

Regional District Development Services staff is working with HB Lanarc consultants to involve residents in each of the areas, as well as stakeholders with an interest in the creation of the OCP's.

Smith adds, "As these areas are rural in character, we're planning a more direct approach by involving residents and others through one-on-one meetings, direct information mailings and website updates. In fact, the first newsletters and survey have just been sent out. As the OCP process moves along through spring and summer, more formal Open Houses will be held to share information and receive comments and input in order to guide the creation of the draft Official Community Plans." The first of the Open Houses are planned for early April.

Later this year, it's anticipated the Regional Board will be asked to consider first reading of Official Community Plan bylaws for each area. In the absence of any Official Community Plan, the Regional District is limited in its ability to ensure land use changes are in keeping with environmental protection and development regulations while providing enforcement mechanisms that are in place in other areas covered by an OCP.

Information about the creation of the two Official Community Plans can be found by visiting regionaldistrict.com/OCP.

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