

SKATEBOARD AMENITIES STRATEGY UPDATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council directed Administration to prepare a status report regarding the Skateboard Amenities Strategy and to report to the SPC on Community and Protective Services by 2014 June.

Administration has selected eight sites to develop a variety of skateparks in 2014 and 2015. These sites were selected as a result of significant community engagement and site analysis. The process included:

- Initial call of interest to all communities in the first quarter of 2013;
- Interested communities were investigated for land availability and appropriateness of location for skateparks;
- A short list of sites were created and brought back for engagement (open houses and online survey in 2014 Q1) to inform the final analysis and site selection; and
- Worked with the community in the Participatory Design stage and will be developing construction drawings by the end of 2014 Q2.

Construction of the first three skateparks will be initiated this summer with Administration targeting to complete construction of all eight sites by fall 2015. Administration will continue to investigate opportunities to address the gap in northeast communities and will further account for the gap during the onset of the next phase of skatepark development.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION (S)

That the SPC on Community and Protective Services recommend that Council receive this report for information.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

On 2011 December 19, Council approved CPS2011-63 Skateboard Amenities Strategy and directed Administration to prepare a status report regarding the Skateboard Amenities Strategy and to report back to the SPC on Community and Protective Services in 2013 following the Municipal Election.

On 2013 December 6, Council approved CPS2013-0828 request to defer the Skateboard Amenities Strategy Update and report back through the SPC on Community & Protective Services by 2014 June.

BACKGROUND

The Skateboard Amenities Strategy (the Strategy) recommends the development of a network of outdoor skateparks in four different typologies (sizes) to be equitably located across the city. The ideal network proposed in the Strategy would provide a variety of skatepark sizes including:

- 3 Quadrant/Regional Skateparks (2500 - 4000 m²);
- 2 Community Skateparks (1200 - 2500 m²);
- 15 Neighbourhood Skateparks (600 - 1200 m²); and
- 30 Skate Spots (150 - 600 m²).

The Council approved Strategy identifies that 25,791m² of skatepark terrain is required to serve the needs of skateboarders in Calgary over the next 10 years. The development of future

SKATEBOARD AMENITIES STRATEGY UPDATE

skateparks will be highly dependent on securing funds, partnerships, and ongoing evaluation to determine actual need. In addition, skatepark development has been identified in the regional recreation centres in Rocky Ridge (currently in concept design) and Seton (currently in site selection).

Along with skateboarding, these amenities will also service the needs of other wheeled sports such as BMX, inline skating and scooters. The network will provide accessibility for a wide variety of users through its proximity to transit and regional pathway systems.

City of Calgary Recreation has begun the implementation of the approved development process identified within the Strategy. The comprehensive skatepark development process identifies four stages:

Stage 1: Site Selection, analyzes proposed sites for appropriateness for development and ensures that stakeholders and the public have input into the selection of sites for development.

Stage 2: Participatory Design Process is undertaken after sites have been chosen and includes opportunities for community, stakeholder and public engagement in the design of the skateparks.

Stage 3: Construction Drawings

Stage 4: Construction will be undertaken by Administration with regular communication to the community, stakeholders and the public on the progress of the project.

In the first quarter of 2013, community associations were invited to express their interest in developing a skatepark in their community by submitting a skatepark proposal to The City. 27 community associations submitted proposals. Administration assessed all 27 submissions and identified 10 high priority proposals based on initial community support, location, and access to regional pathways and transit systems.

Administration identified \$4 million in funding to build the initial phase of the Strategy. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued to procure a qualified consultant to support Administration in site selection, participatory design, and construction drawings. The RFP was awarded to van der Zalm & Associates on 2013 October 02.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

As part of the Stage 1: Site Selection stage, a comprehensive analysis was completed on all of the proposed sites to determine which would be most appropriate for development in Phase 1. This analysis included engagement with key stakeholders and the general public. The main components of this analysis included: location, accessibility (transit/pathways), visibility and community support. The Calgary Future Skateboarding Amenities Site Selection Report (Attachment) provides detailed information on the analysis and site selection.

As initially released in the 2014 March memo to Council, this information and analysis has informed the decision and identified the following eight sites for development:

SKATEBOARD AMENITIES STRATEGY UPDATE

Phase 1

2014 Sites:

- Chinook Park, Kelvin Grove & Eagle Ridge - CKE (*Skate Spot*);
- Huntington Hills (Small *Neighbourhood Skatepark*); and
- Southwood (*Neighbourhood Skatepark*).

Future (2015) Sites:

- Bowness;
- Deer Run;
- Edgemont;
- Midnapore; and
- New Brighton.

Stage 2: the Participatory Design process began in 2014 April with four workshops that engaged the communities, stakeholders and general public in the design of the Skateparks selected. The engagement sessions informed citizens about the selected sites, educated participants on elements of skateparks, and obtained design ideas and priorities. Administration intends to complete the Participatory Design Stage by mid 2014 June.

The Strategy identified a need for an equitable distribution of skateparks throughout Calgary. Administration does recognize that the current sites selected for Phase 1 demonstrates a gap in the northeast corridor of the city. Recreation in partnership with Parks is exploring the feasibility of incorporating a Skateboard park as part of the plan at the Prairie Winds Regional Park. Further investigation and public engagement will need to be undertaken to determine fit in the design development plan. Administration will continue to investigate opportunities to address the gap in northeast communities and will further account for the gap during the onset of the next phase of skatepark development.

Going forward, continued evaluation of the Strategies' recommendation will be an important component of Administration's work. This evaluation of the impact of skateparks as they are being developed will include but is not limited to: participation numbers, 3-1-1 service requests user feedback and community feedback. In addition, a yearly evaluation to confirm the future need and number of amenities required in Calgary over the next ten years will be conducted.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

To confirm appropriate site locations and to facilitate the skateparks being built, the Strategy acknowledges the importance of engagement and communications with the community, stakeholders, public and other City departments. Recreation has collaborated with Parks and Community & Neighbourhood Services to effectively engage community, stakeholders, and general public.

As public engagement has been crucial to the process, the following summarizes the opportunities for the public to get involved:

- In 2014 January, prior to the open houses, information packages were distributed to households that were in line of sight and adjacent to the identified potential skatepark

SKATEBOARD AMENITIES STRATEGY UPDATE

sites. Three open houses were held to solicit public feedback on the ten high priority sites proposed for development. Open houses were attended by over 300 citizens, and citizen feedback was overall positive. Feedback was also solicited through 'PlaceSpeak', an online public interaction website that specializes in facilitating community consultation through the use of interactive web portals. The site received over 2,500 views and received 395 completed responses.

- In 2014 March, a summary report for Stage 1: Site Selection was generated (Attachment). This information informed the decision making for the 2014-2015 sites.
- On 2014 April 30, Stage 2: Participatory Design Stage began with a city wide public engagement event. This design strategy engagement was held at the former Centennial Planetarium with over 100 citizens in attendance representing various stakeholders, including the public and community. This was the first engagement opportunity to provide input on specific terrain and design.
- In 2014 May, community based design strategy engagement events were held for the three sites identified for construction in 2014.
 - Huntington Hills: 25 participants
 - Southwood : 30 participants
 - Chinook Park, Kelvin Grove & Eagle Ridge (CKE) : 40 participants
- In 2014 June, complete site design concepts and follow up with public and community information sessions will be held to share the concept designs.

Strategic Alignment

Implementation of the Strategy aligns with Recreation's mandate to develop and manage a comprehensive recreation service delivery continuum. Recreation's Ten Year Master Plan recognizes that Calgarians need access to citywide recreation based facilities and this commitment aligns with the imagineCalgary Plan that commits to a sustainable future and quality of life for citizens.

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

This report has been reviewed for alignment with The City of Calgary's Triple Bottom Line Policy Framework. The following implications were identified.

Social

Skateboarding and other wheeled sports are popular recreational activities for many children, youth and adults in Calgary. Skateparks provide a safe location for unstructured and structured physical activity, as well as a gathering location within the community. Modern skateparks are designed to be adapted and welcoming to all levels of users with an additional emphasis on strategic development for landscape integration, artistic elements, and socializing areas. The Strategy and public engagement suggests that Calgary is in need of more skateparks with modern elements disbursed equitably around the city, to service the numerous different styles of skateboarding and other wheeled sports.

Environmental

Skatepark development projects will comply with Parks environmental and landscaping policies. All sites selected for development have excellent accessibility by pathway systems and public transit.

SKATEBOARD AMENITIES STRATEGY UPDATE

Economic

A strong social recreational infrastructure is integral to a strong economy. The strategic network of skatepark developments will result in an increase in public exposure to different wheeled activities and new emerging sports.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

For the first eight skateparks, the ongoing operations of the skatepark sites will be managed within current operating budgets. For any additional skateparks that come on line, Administration will review its capacity within current operating budgets to maintain the sites.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

For Phase 1 of the Strategy implementation, \$4 million is identified to construct eight skateparks. At current estimated construction costs, all eight of the proposed sites for 2014/2015 will be developed within the allocated \$4 million. The size of these skateparks will range between 150 m² and 1200 m².

Currently there is no budget identified for future phases of the Skateboard Amenities Strategy. Administration is investigating new partnership opportunities with local, provincial and national governments, private sector, not for profit organizations and other community partners to assist with development funds, grants and other donations. Administration has included Skatepark Planning and Design Development in the 2013-2022 Culture, Parks and Recreation Infrastructure Investment Plan (CPRiIP) and it is currently rated as high priority.

Risk Assessment

There are no significant risks associated with this issue and operational and/or project risks which have been identified are being managed. Amongst the risks considered in reaching this conclusion were, if the current gaps of skatepark terrain were not addressed, skateboarding and other wheeled sports will persist in unsafe and inappropriate locations throughout the city. The commitment to build the initial eight skateparks will begin to address the gap but securing future funding will be essential. In addition, to ensure the public would positively receive the development of skateparks in their communities, significant engagement with the community, stakeholders and general public has been ongoing throughout the development process.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

The implementation of the Skateboarding Amenities Strategy will provide safe active locations for skateboarding and other wheeled sports leading to healthier lifestyles and more complete communities. The update provides information on current project status, site selection, participatory design and public engagement. A total of eight sites have been selected for development over the next two years, with three sites targeted for construction in 2014.

ATTACHMENT

Calgary Future Skateboarding Amenities Site Selection Report