



**Report Number:** PFC2021-0909

**Meeting:** Priorities & Finance Committee

**Meeting Date:** 2021 June 08

## NOTICE OF MOTION

**RE: Investment in Calgary's Parks and Open Spaces**

**Sponsoring Councillor(s):** Jeff Davison, Ward Sutherland

WHEREAS the COVID-19 global pandemic has led to unprecedented use, enjoyment and appreciation of Calgary's parks and open space system;

AND WHEREAS a healthy and vibrant parks system contributes to the health and well-being of citizens, the economy, and the environment and plays a vital role in the strengthening of our communities and the economic recovery of Calgary;

AND WHEREAS, unlike other forms of regional infrastructure, there is no reliable capital funding source for parks and open spaces and there remains areas of Calgary where open space deficiencies exist and open space investment is vital to support Calgary's inner-city communities, downtown core, and growth corridors.

AND WHEREAS since 2003, Council has directed a portion of the ENMAX dividend into the ENMAX Legacy Parks Capital Program;

AND WHEREAS the ENMAX dividend contributions to the Legacy Parks Fund were once approximately \$15 million per year, but have been realized at a reduced rate since 2011;

AND WHEREAS because of City Council's leadership through the ENMAX Legacy Parks Program, the citizens of Calgary have benefitted through the purchase of land for new parks (e.g. Haskayne Park, Ralph Klein Park) as well as the preservation and upgrading of existing parks and public green spaces (e.g. Memorial Drive Landscape of Memory, Nose Hill Park, Central Memorial Park, Reader Rock Garden, Prairie Winds Park, Century Gardens);

AND WHEREAS, there is an ongoing need to invest in parks for the benefit of Calgary's future and Calgary Parks has identified a city-wide capital project funding deficit totaling \$180 million over the next 5 years and an additional \$240 million over the following 5-20 years;

AND WHEREAS the ENMAX Dividend Stabilization Reserve has been established as a contingency to the ENMAX dividend and reached \$18 million in 2020;

AND WHEREAS, surplus ENMAX dividend payments for up to \$75 million over approximately 5 years were approved by Council in 2012 (NM2012-05) to be directed to the ENMAX Legacy Parks Program and due to the reduced ENMAX dividend, only \$35 million has been directed to date;

AND WHEREAS, to ensure parks are resilient following increased usage during the pandemic, there is an immediate need of \$500,000 in one-time support for Calgary Parks to undertake proactive city-wide park horticulture rehabilitation including strategic watering, targeted turf and shrub bed maintenance, increased garbage pick-up, and other measures reflecting increased patterns of park use in 2021;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council approve the continuation of the ENMAX Legacy Parks Program and direct 100% of any ENMAX dividend surplus (i.e. ENMAX dividends in excess of \$47 million) to the Legacy Parks Fund beginning in 2021 and continues to do so only if the ENMAX Stabilization Reserve maintains a balance of \$18 million or until Council directs otherwise, with the corresponding capital budget appropriation to the Parks Operation Legacy Parks Capital Program 499 be put forward for Council's approval through the Business Plan and Budget process with the first approval happening at the 2022 Business Plans and Budget adjustment process in the fall of 2021, and that the ENMAX

Dividend Stabilization Reserve be capped at \$18 million and for the ENMAX Dividend Stabilization Reserve and ENMAX Legacy Parks Program terms and conditions be updated accordingly;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct Administration to re-establish the Legacy Parks Steering Committee at the November 2021 Organizational meeting of Council in order to provide oversight on the Legacy Parks Program;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that \$500,000 in one-time FSR funding be allocated to Calgary Parks to ensure immediate efforts can be undertaken towards a safe, clean and resilient parks and open space system.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct Administration bring forward a proposal outlining the costs for a 2022 parks and open spaces pandemic recovery program that may include sportsfield, turf and trails repair, shrub bed and park clean-up, staff resources, beautification work, etc. for consideration as part of the 2022 budget adjustment process.