

Revised Calgary Recreation Capital Investment Strategy

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council:

- 1) Approve the projects listed in the attachment and a capital budget increase of \$154 million to be funded from various sources, including Offsite Levies and the Community Investment Reserve; and
- 2) Direct Administration to commence an overall phasing and construction timeline for these projects, returning to Council through the Standing Policy Committee on Community and Protective Services with a progress update no later than Q4 2021.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Administration has developed a revised capital investment strategy for multi-use recreation amenities to accommodate the demand for practice and play-ready facilities, leveraging available restricted municipal funding to address:
 - the service gap for practice and play space in new and established areas of Calgary
 - aging recreation infrastructure and associated service inefficiencies, and
 - equitable distribution of in-demand amenities throughout Calgary.
- **What does this mean to Calgarians?** Proposed investments will increase access to recreation opportunities for underserved areas in Calgary, allowing more Calgarians to be more active, more often.
- **Why does it matter?** Access to recreation infrastructure is a cornerstone of vibrant, complete communities and healthy individuals. It contributes to physical literacy and skill development for people of all ages and abilities, promotes active living, and facilitates community and social connections.
- Research demonstrates a shortage in practice and play space in Calgary created over time by increased sport enrollment, evolving citizen needs and demographics, and a growing population.
- Studies point to the need for purpose-built amenities that optimize function, efficiency and service.
- Proposed investments would address growth and known and persistent service needs, for greatest impact, in alignment with available funding.
- Projects have been proposed using the Sport for Life Policy's investment prioritization approach. They include development of athletic parks in the northeast (Saddle Ridge) and northwest (Rocky Ridge), regional fieldhouses in the northeast (Skyview Ranch) and southwest (Belmont), a twin ice arena replacing an outdated single sheet arena in the southwest (Glenmore Athletic Park) and an air-supported dome over an artificial turf field in the southeast (Calgary Soccer Centre).
- On 2021 May 31, Council directed Administration to return directly to Council in June 2021 with a revised recreation capital investment strategy to address immediate community need by building and renewing facilities filling known gaps in amenities city-wide.
- Strategic Alignment to Council's Citizen Priorities: A healthy and green city

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DISCUSSION

Studies confirm the need for a variety of practice and play spaces to accommodate demand in Calgary.

The facility, amenity and service gap continues to be driven by Calgary's:

- population growth and increasing participation in sports,
- existing facilities that are functionally obsolete, no longer fit for purpose due to age and beyond their normal life expectancies,
- demonstrated need for competition-capable sport and recreation facilities and community gathering spaces, and
- geographic growth, changing demographics and the evolving recreation needs of Calgarians.

Administration recommends targeted investments at strategic locations to address:

- a gap in indoor practice and play space,
- demand for ice time on Calgary's west side and the unplanned inventory reduction of an ice sheet in 2018, and
- the need for athletic park amenities in underserved areas.

A gap in indoor practice and play space

The proposed indoor field practice and play facilities will align with user group's needs and provide large open spaces for sport and community uses. Each will house a multi-use rectangular field space that can accommodate a broad range of activities.

Regional Fieldhouses

Multi-purpose fieldhouses are planned as part of integrated optimized recreation facilities in the northeast (Skyview Ranch) and southwest (Belmont). The facilities will address the need for indoor multi-use space and support community-driven recreation, sport, cultural activities, festivals and events.

Each proposed fieldhouse will include a multi-sport rectangular field space able to accommodate various playing surfaces, and supporting amenities (e.g. dressing rooms, spectator seating, etc.). As part of the design phase, stakeholder engagement will help refine the proposed amenity complement and create a master plan for each site to accommodate comprehensive recreation facilities in the future.

Air Inflated Structure (Dome)

With the evolution of indoor soccer to include an un-boarded game, there is a growing need in Calgary for open-span field space to replicate outdoor play experience.

To help meet the need for open-span field space, a prefabricated, air-supported structure is proposed in the southeast at the Calgary Soccer Centre (CSC). This amenity type leverages CSC's existing outdoor fields and indoor amenity complement and boosts capacity to host tournaments and events. The project would improve utilization of an existing asset through the winter, providing users year-round access to a full-size rectangular field while maintaining existing boarded fields which remain in demand within Calgary and are integral to other activities including box lacrosse and field hockey.

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Demand for ice on Calgary's west side: *Twin Arena Redevelopment*

The Council-approved Concept Plan for Foothills and Glenmore Athletic Parks (2010) proposed replacing Stu Peppard Arena with an optimized twin arena. Stu Peppard was assessed as nearing the end of its life and poses significant challenges due to age, including limitations on use, functional deficiencies and operational inefficiencies associated with a single sheet facility.

The replacement of Stu Peppard Arena with two regulation-size ice sheets will address the capacity loss of the Fairview Arena in 2018 and meet the need for additional ice capacity in west Calgary. Several community sport organizations have expressed support for increased capacity in the area and Hockey Calgary has committed \$3.6M towards the redevelopment.

The need for athletic park amenities in underserved areas

Athletic park amenities are proposed in the northeast at Saddle Ridge and the northwest at Rocky Ridge. The outdoor facilities will add to and complement existing and planned indoor sport and recreation spaces, addressing seasonal demand and the needs of the regions.

Northeast Athletic Park

The northeast is deficient in rectangular outdoor fields to support participation in recreation and sport at all levels, and this deficiency will intensify with projected population growth. To support current and long-term needs, Calgary Recreation identified and is in the process of acquiring a new site for an athletic park.

Northwest Athletic Park

Approved by Council in 2012, the Rocky Ridge Recreation Facility Master Plan identified the proposed fields to meet the need for playfields in the region.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION (EXTERNAL)

- Public Engagement was undertaken
- Public Communication or Engagement was not required
- Public/Stakeholders were informed
- Stakeholder dialogue/relations were undertaken

Calgary Recreation regularly engages with community and sport partners as part of ongoing business planning to understand existing and emerging service needs, though direct engagement did not occur specific to this report. Previous studies included significant engagement; one study involved three surveys soliciting feedback from almost 9,000 Calgarians and 110 stakeholder groups for capital assessment and service planning.

Community and sport stakeholders will be consulted as part of the project development phases for each proposed amenity.

IMPLICATIONS

Social

Quality recreation infrastructure is critical to developing healthy, vibrant and complete communities. Proposed facilities will address the significant need for practice and play space throughout Calgary, providing spaces for Calgarians to play, learn, grow and connect. They will also improve equitable access to comparable levels of service across the city.

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Environmental

The facilities will optimize material, energy and water efficiency and conservation in accordance with The City's Sustainable Building Policy. Regional access to a commensurate level of service will reduce the number and length of participant vehicular trips and associated emissions

Economic

The addition of new recreation facilities increases Calgary's appeal to individuals and businesses. Recreational sporting activity and events create direct and ancillary business development opportunities. The planning and construction of these facilities will create significant employment opportunities.

Service and Financial Implications

Other: One-Time Funding – up to \$154 million

To support the proposed investment, a capital commitment of \$154 million is to be funded from various sources, including Offsite Levies and the Community Investment Reserve. This investment leverages restricted funding to address existing service and amenity gaps while maintaining \$70 million as the municipal investment towards the Foothills Fieldhouse.

Analysis of the proposed amenities indicates an increase of operating expenses of approximately \$4 million that will be offset by projected revenue. Should funding be approved, Administration will continue to refine operational modeling as part of project development to maintain a net zero tax support increase.

RISK

Committing Community Investment Reserve funds (restricted capital for community asset investment) in this way will restrict funding in the next budget cycle to the projects named in this report. This limits flexibility to fund new projects in the near future.

Offsite Levies eligibility criteria will need to be continually applied as part of detailed project development. If specific project elements do not meet criteria, other funding sources may need to be identified or scopes adjusted.

If the recommendation is not approved, gaps in equitable access to service will continue and increase due to forecasted demand and population growth.

ATTACHMENT

1. Planned Budget Allocation for Proposed Investments

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Chris Arthurs	Deputy City Manager's Office	Inform
Stuart Dalglish	Planning and Development	Inform
Carla Male	Chief Financial Office	Inform
Doug Morgan	Transportation	Inform
Michael Thompson	Utilities & Environmental Protection	Inform