

Symons Valley Leisure and Amenities Society- Council Community Fund Application

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Priorities and Finance Committee recommend that Council:

1. Consider this application for the Council Community Fund for the Symons Valley Leisure and Amenities Society, Symons Valley Park capital project (Phase 1), in the amount of \$500,000 one-time funding request; and;
2. If the application is approved, direct the Ward 2 Office and the applicant to report back to the Priorities and Finance Committee within 12 months of project completion.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ward 2 Councillor, Joe Magliocca, is sponsoring an application to the Council Community Fund for a project that will be managed through the Symons Valley Leisure and Amenities Society. The application (Attachment 3) is seeking \$500,000 to support Phase 1 of a capital project in Symons Valley.
- The completion of Phase 1 of the Symons Valley Park will help to realize the Council-approved vision of the Symons Valley Community Plan (Bylaw 6P2001).
- Based on Symons Valley Park's phasing strategy, at the completion of each construction phase, area residents will have a usable park space and added amenities to enjoy.
- **What does this mean to Calgarians?** Symons Valley Park will deliver affordable, inclusive, accessible amenities that contribute to the physical, mental and social wellbeing of the 21,000 Calgarians who live, work, learn, and play in Symons Valley.
- **Why does it matter?** Using a partnership model with the four neighbouring communities of Sherwood, Kincora, Sage Hill and Nolan Hill, this innovative approach leverages financial and volunteer resources to achieve a common purpose and contribute to the betterment of the communities. Symons Valley Park will serve as a model for future community-based amenities on municipal/public parcels.
- Strategic Alignment to Council's Citizen Priorities: A city of safe and inspiring neighbourhoods
- Background and Previous Council Direction is included as Attachment 1.

DISCUSSION

The project, known as Symons Valley Park, will create community-accessible, all-season outdoor recreation and leisure amenities for the diverse residents of the Symons Valley communities.

The development of Symons Valley Park is a locally organized, community-driven project:

- It was designed with input from 1,500+ community residents.
- It is supported by a partnership between four community associations.
- The Board and committees of the Symons Valley Leisure and Amenities Society consist of volunteers from each of the four partnering communities and beyond.

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The construction phasing plan (Attachment 4) uses best practices in project planning and design to manage project risks while delivering on safe, inclusive, desirable amenities that promote physical, social, and mental wellbeing of community members, encourage social cohesion, and inspire people to contribute meaningfully to their neighbourhood.

A fundraising campaign for Symons Valley Park, targeting the private sector and public grants, will be executed in the fall. The goal of the campaign is the raise \$150,000 over the next twelve months. The funds raised will be used towards design development including landscaping and architecture costs. The \$500,000 from the Council Community Fund, if approved, will then be sufficient to deliver a nature park that will mature into an urban forest, that community members can enjoy today and for years to come.

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

Since 2017 stakeholders have been engaged in the design of Symons Valley Park (Attachment 5). This has included over 1,500 residents completing an online survey to share their input on what amenities they would like to see on the parcel of land The City had designated for recreational purposes in the Symons Valley area resulting in the conceptual design. Further engagement was done through social media and in-person events in addition to the installment of a temporary sign onsite showing the planned amenities and layout of Symons Valley Park. This signage is important for raising awareness of this planned community asset and will help to further community engagement, communication, and fundraising efforts.

The three orders of government and member community associations have provided letters of support for the project (Attachment 6).

IMPLICATIONS

Social

Symons Valley Park will support Council's priority of a city of safe and inspiring neighbourhoods by positively impacting the physical, mental and social health of the culturally-, income-, and age-diverse residents of Symons Valley and surrounding communities. It will be a recreational and community hub where all Calgarians are welcomed, can experience a sense of community belonging and foster the important social and community values of volunteerism, community service, collaboration, and partnership.

Environmental

Symons Valley Park will be an outdoor community hub with trees and green spaces and will demonstrate environmental restoration practices that require minimal maintenance. Currently, the Symons Valley area lacks recreational amenities; and residents must travel by car to access amenities in other communities.

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Economic

The amenities included in Symons Valley Park were selected to minimize operating and maintenance costs. As a multi-community park using a multi-community delivery model, Symons Valley Park will reduce overall operating and capital maintenance costs and lifecycle expenditures versus a model with various amenities delivered by individual communities.

Service and Financial Implications

Other:

\$500,000

The current balance of the Council Community Fund is approximately \$585,000. This application is a one-time funding request of \$500,000. There are two Council Community Fund applications under consideration with requests exceeding \$585,000; therefore, both projects cannot be fully funded.

If \$500,000 is approved, the funding will provide support to Phase 1 of Symons Valley Park. A detailed budget is outlined in Attachment 7. Symons Valley Park has been designed as a primarily outdoor space with amenities that require minimal operation and maintenance. Once built, Symons Valley Park will be funded by revenue-generating initiatives such as site booking and rental fees, corporate sponsorships and community fundraising activities.

RISK

The approval of this \$500,000 request limits opportunities to fund other projects. However, as a multi-community project, The City of Calgary is supporting amenities for four partnering communities to deliver services to 37,000 area residents. If this request is not approved, there will be missed opportunities for Symons Valley Leisure and Amenities Society to leverage other government and corporate matching grants; therefore, Symons Valley Leisure and Amenities Society would rely more on community-based fundraising. Symons Valley Park would not be built within the project timelines and residents would continue to travel outside Symons Valley to access recreational amenities in other communities. Partial funding would result in the modification of the Symons Valley Park design, including the removal of amenities, revision to the phasing strategy and items within each phase, and changes to the project timeline.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Background, Previous Council Direction
2. Council Community Fund Terms of Reference
3. Symons Valley Leisure and Amenities Society Council Community Fund Application
4. Project Concept Drawing and Phased Design
5. Stakeholder Engagement Survey Results
6. Letters of Support
7. Project Construction Budget

**Community Services Report to
Priorities and Finance Committee
2021 September 7**

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Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Carla Male	CFOD	Inform