

Legacy Parks Program Committee Terms of Reference

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council:

1. Approve the Terms of Reference to re-establish the Legacy Parks Program Committee (the Committee) as outlined in Attachment 2; and
2. Direct Administration to return to Council in December 2021 with recommended members.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Since 2003, Council has directed a portion of the ENMAX dividend into the ENMAX Legacy Parks Program Fund. This consistent capital funding source has allowed strategic park land acquisition, the redevelopment of existing parks and the development of new parks across the city.
- The Legacy Parks Fund Committee was in place from 2003-2016 to oversee this program but was disbanded in 2016 following a reduction in the ENMAX dividend.
- Now that the ENMAX dividend is increasing and the ENMAX Dividend Stabilization Reserve has reached the mandated \$18 million, the dividend surplus can be directed to the Legacy Park Fund. Council has directed the continuance of the ENMAX Legacy Parks Program with new fund terms and re-establishment of a Legacy Parks Program Committee to provide oversight on the fund (Attachment 3).
- **What does this mean to Calgarians?** Calgarians will benefit from the acquisition and/or development of new parks and open spaces and the redevelopment of existing parks.
- **Why does this matter?** An equitable and vibrant parks system contributes to the well-being of Calgarians, and to a healthy environment, economy and communities.
- The Committee name has been modified from the Legacy Parks Fund Steering Committee to the Legacy Parks Program Committee, and the 2015 Terms of Reference for the Committee have been updated to meet current corporate standards and to include considerations around equity, and a focus on environmental well-being and protection. Criteria for project selection is being refined by Administration for consideration and approval by the Committee.
- The members of the Legacy Parks Program Committee will be appointed at a future meeting of Council, with Committee meetings to convene in Q1 2022.
- Strategic Alignment to Council's Citizen Priorities: A healthy and green city
- Background and Previous Council Direction is included as Attachment 1.

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DISCUSSION

A consistent source of capital funding with the ENMAX Legacy Parks Reserve has been instrumental in the expansion, protection and enhancement of Calgary's world class parks and open space system. The ENMAX Legacy Parks funds are one source of funding used for park development and acquisition; other potential sources include provincial and federal grants, donations, and other City funding. These funds have been used to leverage external funding to maximize park investments and this will continue with the renewed program.

Between 2003 - 2020, approximately \$160 million in ENMAX Legacy funds were invested on a wide variety of parks projects including land acquisition (e.g. Haskayne Legacy Park and Ralph Klein Park), redevelopment of existing regional parks (e.g. Central Memorial Park, Dale Hodges Park, and Prairie Winds Park) and protection/enhancement of natural areas (e.g. Nose Hill Park and River Park/Sandy Beach).

In 2021 June, Council directed that the Legacy Parks Fund Steering Committee be re-established at the 2021 November 1 Organizational Day of Council (PFC2021-0909). Terms of Reference have been updated for the Committee (Attachment 2) and key updates to these include the consideration of equity in terms of project identification, a renewed focus on environmental impacts and protection, and prioritizing projects that can access alternate funds such as external grants where feasible. The Committee will meet quarterly and as needed at the call of the Chair.

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

IMPLICATIONS

Social

Access to a variety of parks and open spaces for socializing along with active and passive recreational activities contributes to the overall health and well-being of Calgarians.

Environmental

A healthy and connected parks system leads to increased biodiversity and environmental resiliency.

Economic

Parks and open spaces add to the vitality of our neighbourhoods and the downtown core, are a catalyst for external investment and provide opportunities for events and other commercial activities.

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Service and Financial Implications

No anticipated financial impact

The projected 2021 year-end balance in the Legacy Parks Reserve, including the \$11 million 2021 ENMAX dividend surplus and previous commitments, is approximately \$19.7 million.

RISK

The risk of not reinstating the Legacy Parks Program Committee and approving the Terms of Reference is that new and existing park development opportunities are not identified and executed in a timely and equitable manner and there may be a potential delay in projects that will benefit Calgarians, our economy and our environment.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Previous Council Direction
2. Terms of Reference
3. Notice of Motion (PFC2021-0909 - Strategic Investment in Calgary's Parks, Playfields and Open Spaces)

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Katie Black	Community Services	Approve
Michael Thompson	Utilities & Environmental Protection	Consult
Doug Morgan	Transportation	Inform