ENVIRONMENTAL OPEN SPACE REVIEW WORK PROGRAM

1. Introduction

1.1. This work program directs Parks to review and clarify Environmental Open Space (EOS) policy, refine technical components for its implementation and to provide clarity on defining and applying environmental reserve relative to the Municipal Government Act. The work program adheres to corporate requirements on project chartering and engagement, following the "Collaboration" approach as defined in the Engage Policy.

2. Problem/Issue statements

2.1. Goal of clarifying EOS policy
    2.1.1. What are the intended planning and development outcomes of Environmental Open Space policy?
    2.1.2. What are the relevant legislation and policies that guide and direct the planning of Environmental Open Space?

2.2. Identification of lands of conservation value
    2.2.1. What are the processes, methods and mechanisms through which lands of ecological value are identified for conservation, planned for, prioritised for, conserved, developed as "green infrastructure" or lost to development?
    2.2.2. What are the relevant legislation and policies that guide and direct the technical analysis of lands to determine conservation value?
    2.2.3. What is the level of land analysis (scale) required at the ASP level of development to determine lands of conservation value?
    2.2.4. How do lands of conservation value (those given policy direction by EOS) connect across scale: site, community, ASP-area, citywide and region?
    2.2.5. What is the process for determining what is illustrated on the land use map in ASPs?
    2.2.6. How is feasibility of implementing EOS policy direction taken into consideration into identifying and planning for lands of conservation value?

2.3. Implementing and integrating the lands of conservation value in the open space network
    2.3.1. What are the tools to acquire, protect and develop lands of conservation value (e.g. environmental reserve, municipal reserve, easements, development, purchase, etc.)?
    2.3.2. What are the metrics used to predict the value and success of conserving a system of protected and developed lands in the ASP area?
    2.3.3. How is EOS coordinated with other relevant departments through the ASP land use map design of the EOS layer and in implementation?
    2.3.4. How are decisions documented through the process of identifying lands of conservation, planning them, prioritising them for conservation, conserving them, developing them as "green infrastructure" or losing them to development?

2.4. Clarity, consistency, common language and understanding of EOS policy direction
    2.4.1. How is clarity and consistency maintained in addressing the above problem statement questions?
    2.4.2. How are glossary terms defined and used to ensure common language?

3. Scope

3.1. The Environmental Open Space (EOS) review policy work program will address each problem statement.

3.2. The project scope involves the following work program deliverables, criteria for completion and principles.

4. Deliverables

4.1.1. Develop and implement an engagement plan with broad, collaboration level stakeholder representation in support of providing policy clarity, building common language and understanding, refining a technical frame work for its implementation and seeking clarity from the Province of Alberta on the interpretation and application of environmental reserve.

4.1.2. Review the legislative and policy basis for EOS policy direction in open space planning.

4.1.3. Amend the current EOS policy, as per the MDP Volume 2, Part 1, The New Community Planning Guidebook.

4.1.4. Develop a high-level process map and technical guidelines for identifying, planning, conserving, developing or losing lands of conservation value within the ASP and Outline Plan process.

4.1.5. Revise the current technical guidelines that that are used for analysing lands of conservation value, including defining technical terms within its glossary. Clarity gained from the Province of Alberta on environmental reserve will be incorporated into these guidelines.

5. Identifying work program success

5.1.1. Confirmation of broad, collaborative level stakeholder engagement in producing the following projects.

5.1.2. Proposed amendment to EOS policy in the MDP Volume 2, Part 1, The New Community Planning Guidebook.

5.1.3. Draft technical guidelines for identifying, planning, conserving, developing or losing lands of conservation value within the ASP and Outline Plan process

5.1.4. Draft revised technical guidelines used for analysing lands of conservation value.

6. Current EOS review work

6.1.1. Legislative & policy basis for EOS direction in open space planning is under review.

6.1.2. A technical terms glossary is under development.

6.1.3. Technical guidelines used for analysing lands of conservation value at the ASP-stage of planning are under development with internal and external stakeholders.

7. Work program stakeholder principles

7.1. Consistency

7.1.1. The policy and technical guidelines are consistent and without conflict with relevant Municipal, Provincial and Federal policies and frameworks; they are consistently applied across areas of The City (Municipal Development Plan, page 1-4).

7.2. Multi-benefit

7.2.1. The open space network that is a result of the policy and technical guidelines supports ecological process and provides appropriate user access and infrastructure (e.g. pathways and storm water infrastructure) that support communities and The City. The work within the EOS work plan will integrate social, environmental and economic objectives (*Municipal Development Plan*, page 1-2).

7.3. Integrative

    7.3.1. The Initiative will connect policies across the Corporation, ensuring the open space network is coordinated and functions as a network with Parks (manicured and non-manicured spaces), Water Resources (storm water, watersheds), Transportation (corridors, sustainability and mobility choices), and Planning and Development (community design); and extend integration with needs and opportunities beyond the Corporation to the regional partners, industry partners, neighbouring communities, etc.

7.4. Plain language

    7.4.1. Although the technical foundations may be rigorously based in science, the policy and technical guidelines seek simplicity to ensure transparency.

7.5. Engagement

    7.5.1. The City commits to engagement that is inclusive, transparent, responsive and accountable (engage! Policy, CS009) and meets the direction and expectations of City of Calgary Council.

8. Proposed schedule

8.1. Schedule, project milestones and deliverables are outlined in the following chart. Parks has committed to biweekly meetings with the development industry to ensure the EOS work program is kept on track. The schedule on the following page is projected to be a realistic timeframe. Significant amendments to the timeline must be agreed to by all major stakeholders and Council will be advised accordingly.

EOS REVIEW SCHEDULE

Dates	2015												2016	
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
1. Background review legislative & policy basis for EOS direction in open space planning		X	X											
Deliverable Background Review Complete				X										
2. Review existing EOS policy								X	X	X	X			
Deliverable EOS Policy amendments completed												X		
3. Amendment of existing technical guidelines	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Deliverable Technical guidelines complete									X					
4.Technical definitions/ terminology reviewed		X	X	X	X									
Deliverable Technical definitions/terminology complete									X					
5. EOS planning/implementation process map review		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Deliverable EOS Process Map and framework complete											X			
6. Stakeholder consultation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Deliverable Report preparation and presentation to PUD													X	X