

**Community Services Report to  
Priorities and Finance Committee  
2019 July 02**

**ISC: UNRESTRICTED  
PFC2019-0802  
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**Naming of a City Cemetery**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Calgary Parks is requesting that the new City cemetery in the south be formally named "Prairie Sky Cemetery". A site map showing the area to be named is included as an Attachment.

**ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Priorities and Finance Committee recommends that Council:

1. Approve the name "Prairie Sky Cemetery" for the park site located at 12800 100 Street SE; and
2. Direct that the report and attachments be heard in-camera pursuant to subsection 23(1)(b) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, and remain confidential pursuant to Section 24(1)(a)&(b) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* until Council rises and reports.

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRIORITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEE, DATED 2019 JULY 02:**

That Council adopt the name of "Prairie Sky Cemetery" for the park site located at 12800 100 Street SE.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY**

On 2016 April 11, Council approved the Municipal Naming, Sponsorship and Naming Rights Policy (CP2016-01), replacing the previous Municipal Naming Policy (CS03); the Naming Rights Guidelines – City-Owned, Civic Partners Operated Facilities (CSPS012); and the Sponsorship Policy – City-Owned, City Managed Assets (CS011).

On 2009 December 14, Council approved the internal land transfer of a portion of Ralph Klein Park to Cemeteries for the creation of a new City cemetery (LAS2009-128).

On 2006 July 24, Council directed Administration to investigate the purchase of land for cemetery use as part of the south Calgary planning process (LAS2006-96).

**BACKGROUND**

In 2006 Administration began the process of investigating available land for a new cemetery as City cemeteries were reaching capacity and new lands would be necessary by 2015-2020. There was a desire to have two new cemeteries, one in the north and one in the south, to accommodate demand for 40+ years. An examination of the lands purchased for the development of Ralph Klein Park was undertaken as the parcel purchased for the park was larger than required. After analysis, the excess lands were approved for cemetery use in 2009. The resulting useable lands for cemetery purposes consist of 18.70 hectares once wetland setbacks were considered.

In 2012 the land use re-designation was finalized and a contract was awarded to design the new cemetery. Stakeholder engagement and design development continued in 2013, and by 2014 The City had a conceptual design. 2016 saw completion of detailed design and tender drawings, with Water Act approval for wetland impacts secured in 2017.

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Construction started in 2018, with the internal road work and the first phase of construction completed in the same year. The second phase of construction is scheduled for summer 2019 and the new cemetery is scheduled for opening in 2020.

### **INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS**

A variety of criteria can be considered when naming cemeteries, including the physical surroundings of topography, geographical and other natural elements (prairie, hills, mountains); or cultural names of cities, towns, areas, etc. (Calgary, Airdrie, etc.). Names may also be in honour of a person, or historical event. (Queen's Park, Burnsland, St. Mary's). Since the City of Calgary cemeteries are non-sectarian, and should represent all religious, cultural and ethnic aspects of our communities, names with religious associations were not considered.

Parks therefore looked at the surrounding landscape to provide direction. A cemetery's name is an important component to ensure a successful cemetery. The name is put forward, in part to contribute to an overall marketing plan for the cemetery, and it is expected the proposed name will be attractive to citizens, encouraging them to make "Prairie Sky Cemetery" the final resting place for themselves and their loved ones.

The proposed name, "Prairie Sky Cemetery", is in accordance with the Municipal Naming, Sponsorship and Naming Rights Policy (CP2016-01) in that the name reflects a local geographic feature of the area.

### **Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication**

Stakeholders for the cemetery design and development phases included representatives from the death care industry, religious organizations and area citizens. The engagement included three sessions, a public open house presenting three design options and a survey to provide feedback. The preferred concept along with a Design Development report was also posted on Calgary.ca. The design consultants then worked with Calgary Parks to determine options for a name for the new cemetery. Public engagement was not undertaken for the proposed name.

### **Strategic Alignment**

The naming of a Municipal Park is aligned with City Council approved Municipal Naming, Sponsorship and Naming Rights Policy (CP2016-01).

### **Social, Environmental, Economic (External)**

The proposed name was put forward, in part, to be attractive to citizens, so they will feel comfortable making "Prairie Sky Cemetery" the final resting place for themselves and their loved ones.

### **Financial Capacity**

#### ***Current and Future Operating Budget:***

No impact to current or future operating budgets.

#### ***Current and Future Capital Budget:***

No impact to current or future capital budgets.

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### **Risk Assessment**

The cemetery industry is a competitive market with City and private cemeteries operating in Calgary. The proposed name will allow the City cemetery group to begin marketing and build awareness of this new cemetery option for citizens.

### **REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):**

Approval of the naming of this cemetery fits within the criteria outlined in the Municipal Naming, Sponsorship and Naming Rights Policy (CP2016-01) as the name reflects a local geographic feature of the site.

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

Attachment 1 - Community and Cemetery Site Map (Confidential)