

PROPOSED ENMAX LEGACY PARKS PROGRAM UPDATES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Enmax Legacy Parks Program has been instrumental in the acquisition and development of new regional parks as well as the lifecycle and upgrading of a number of existing regional parks across Calgary since the program was created by Council in 2003. Regional parks serve multiple communities, large catchment areas and tend to be multi-hour destinations for citizens. Unlike community open space, they are not acquired, funded or constructed through the development and subdivision process, subsequently requiring alternate funding sources.

Current criteria for the Enmax Legacy Parks Program funding are limited to regional park land acquisition and/or development. Administration is recommending three additional criteria (Attachment 1) that would include the ability to address select local open space conditions to align with the direction of the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and aspire to deliver all Calgary communities with sufficient nature and vibrant open spaces as opportunity and feasibility permit. This report presents Administration's recommendations for the allocation of a portion of the \$75 million in new funding.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Enmax Legacy Parks Fund Steering Committee recommends that this report go forward to the SPC on Community and Protective Services for recommendation and then that Council:

1. Approve the proposed additional criteria to include local community open spaces as outlined in Attachment 1;
2. Receive for information the updated projects for consideration list (Attachment 2);
3. Approve proposed new projects (Attachment 3);
4. Direct that Attachment 2 remain confidential under Sections 24(1)(a) and 25(1) (c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Alberta)* until individual projects are approved by Council; and
5. Direct that the report and Attachments 1 and 3 remain confidential pursuant to Sections 24(1)(a) & (b) and 25(1)(c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Alberta)* until Council rises and reports.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGACY PARKS FUND STEERING COMMITTEE, DATED 2014 FEBRUARY 13:

That Council:

1. Approve the Administration Recommendations contained in Report LPC2014-0172;
2. Direct that Attachment 2 remain confidential under Sections 24(1)(a) and 25(1) (c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Alberta)* until individual projects are approved by Council; and
3. Direct that the report and Attachments 1 and 3 remain confidential pursuant to Sections 24(1)(a) & (b) and 25(1)(c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Alberta)* until Council rises and reports.

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PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

On 2003 September 22 Council approved, "The Legacy Parks Steering Committee mandate as recommended in Executive Report to Council C2003-67".

At the 2012 November 20 meeting of the Legacy Parks Fund Steering Committee, the LPC2012-0808 Overview of Legacy Program – Legacy Parks Fund Steering Committee Terms of Reference was referred to the Administration "to review the Legacy Parks Fund Steering Committee Terms of Reference, with a report back to Council no later than 2013 January".

On 2013 May 27 Council approved the Terms of Reference in LPC2013-0428 Proposed New Enmax Legacy Parks Program Updates as outlined in corrected Attachment.

BACKGROUND

The Enmax Legacy Parks Program Phase 3 is focused on upgrading existing regional parks, developing new regional parks and improving community parks in underserved areas of the city.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

Over the last four years the Culture, Parks and Recreation Infrastructure Investment Plan (CPRIP) has identified new and existing park needs across Calgary on an unfunded list. Regional park projects are included in CPRIP but are often a lower priority as they are awaiting planning and re-design exercises. Conversely, undertaking a planning and design exercise with citizen engagement without having a committed construction budget can create a multi-year time lag between plan completion and construction. As a result of anticipated densification issues, concerns over underserved areas and challenges with other funding streams it is recommended that the Enmax Legacy Parks Program focus include additional criteria to address select local community open spaces conditions. Attachment 1 outlines the details of the new proposed criteria.

ImagineCALGARY articulated a denser City with vibrant urban spaces. Attachment 3 has identified a series of projects for consideration that correspond with the vision of imagineCALGARY.

With the 2013 flood damage to parks and the associated restoration requirements several of the projects identified on Attachment 3 have been identified in order to coordinate work with other business units such as Water Resources.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

New parks as well as the redevelopment of older parks will require both community and public stakeholder engagement and will be identified and initiated as part of the project planning, conceptual and detail design requirements.

Strategic Alignment

This report aligns with Council's Fiscal Plan for Calgary 2012-2014:
"Investing in great communities and a vibrant urban fabric"

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Further, the report also aligns with the goals and objectives of the following documents:

- 2020 Sustainability Direction
- Calgary Open Space Plan

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

Social

Acquiring lands in communities that are deficient in open space and park redevelopment will continue to support great public access to park opportunities and experiences including both active and passive recreation for all Calgarians. New regional sites will address current underserved areas.

Environmental

Additional regional open space provides for more sustainable communities as density increases and assists in maintaining, or in some cases, enhancing bio-diversity. Enhanced biodiversity contributes to a healthy urban environment, in addition to providing carbon offset and mitigation of pollution associated with the urban environment.

Economic (external)

High quality park space favourably impacts the image and economy of Calgary and is associated with indirect benefits including but not limited to increased land values and community desirability.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

New regional and new local community park developments will require growth in the Parks operating budget as these sites become operational. Costs are mitigated through the use of sustainable design practices (LEED), technology improvements and current horticultural best practices through an asset management framework.

Operating budget requirements associated with redevelopment of existing sites are already reflected in the current operating budget. Renovating a park may result in lower operating costs for current infrastructure due to efficiencies gained through improvements such as lighting, building management technology, water management and site re-design. Budget adjustments may be required on some projects to address the new amenities and/or significant changes (i.e. water fountain features) that have been incorporated as a result of the capital investment.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

New park development will generate future lifecycle costs associated with that development. Existing park redevelopment will deal with existing lifecycle requirements at the time of redevelopment and renew the life span of the sites selected. This may reduce the future site specific lifecycle costs depending upon the nature of the redevelopment.

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Risk Assessment

A comprehensive risk analysis is required as part of the due diligence associated with all land acquisitions and capital projects and will be identified with mitigation strategies as part of the project plan.

Risks associated with redevelopment are similar. Risk assessment and mitigation plans are incorporated into the due diligence integral in the Design Development Plan. The risk assessment is project specific.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

Approval of the new proposed criteria and projects is recommended to address select local open space conditions to increase and improve locally accessible park space for citizens in communities with open space deficiencies and to restore flood impacted park sites in coordination with other business units.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Enmax Legacy Parks Program – Criteria
2. Enmax Legacy Parks Program 3 – Projects for Consideration
3. Enmax Legacy Parks Program 3 – Proposed Projects for Approval

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