

ENMAX LEGACY PARKS PROGRAM – QUARTERLY UPDATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2013 May, Council approved the Legacy Parks Fund Steering Committee Terms of Reference which proposed quarterly meetings, at the call of the Chair (Mayor). In 2014 September, the 2015 Legacy Park Fund Steering Committee (LPFSC) meeting dates were set for January 08, April 02, July 02 and October 22. The 2015 April 02 Legacy Park Fund Steering Committee meeting was cancelled; the report and attachments were distributed to committee members. This report provides a preliminary agenda for the 2015 October 22 meeting (Attachment 1), status updates for active Legacy projects from Phases 1, 2 and 3 (Attachment 2), and a financial update for all phases (Attachment 3).

There is a need to access Legacy Phase 3 Program funds as bridge financing for the Thomson Family Park project as summarized in Attachment 4. Final park design has been completed; the proposed bridge financing is required in order for the tender process to continue and for construction to begin on schedule in the fall of 2015.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Legacy Parks Fund Steering Committee recommends that Council:

1. Receive the preliminary agenda for the 2015 October 22 meeting of the Legacy Parks Fund Steering Committee for information (Attachment 1);
2. Receive the ENMAX Legacy Parks Program - Project Updates for information (Attachment 2);
3. Receive the Legacy Parks Financial Update for information (Attachment 3).
4. Approve access to Legacy Phase 3 funds to bridge finance the Thomson Family Park redevelopment until funds are received from the private donor (Attachment 4).

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

On 2003 September 22, Council approved “The Legacy Parks Steering Committee mandate” as recommended in the Executive Report to Council, C2003-67 ENMAX Legacy Parks -Update.

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 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 1.

At the 2014 March 10 meeting of Council, LPC2014-0172 was approved as follows: Approve the proposed additional program criteria to include local community open spaces and approve proposed new projects as outlined in revised attachments.

At the 2014 November 03 and 04 meeting of Council, LPC2014-0823 Proposed Phase 3 ENMAX Legacy Parks Projects was approved.

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BACKGROUND

Part of the ENMAX Legacy Parks Program funds the development of new regional parks in future growth corridors, including the land acquisition associated with the development of these parks. Previous major land acquisitions include: Ralph Klein Park, Haskayne Park, Bowmont East Gate (Klippert lands), as well as several smaller parcels in established communities. At the 2014 November 03 and 04 meeting of Council ENMAX Legacy Parks Phase 3 projects were approved; including upgrades to existing regional parks, development of new regional parks and improving existing community parks in underserved areas of the city.

In 2014, Council approved new terms of reference that proposed quarterly meetings at the call of the chair (Mayor). At the 2015 January meeting of the Legacy Parks Fund Steering Committee meeting, the Committee requested that agendas come forward for future meetings as part of the quarterly LPC report. The 2015 April 02 meeting was cancelled, and the last meeting date for the year is 2015 October 22. The proposed agenda for the October meeting is included as Attachment 1. Updates on project status for all Legacy projects (Attachment 2) and a financial update to May 31, 2015 (Attachment 3) are provided as well.

A \$2 million dollar donation of private funds was pledged by the Thomson family for a park redevelopment project in the Beltline. The donation is coming to The City in annual instalments between 2014-2018. At the 2014 November 03 and 04 meeting of Council, \$2 million in Legacy Phase 3 funding was approved for Thomson Family Park. The Thomson Family Park redevelopment project has been through the public engagement, and the visioning and conceptual design phase, with the final concept design presented to the public at an open house in 2015 February. Detailed design, approvals and tender documents are now underway and targeted for completion in 2015 summer. Budget tied to the Thomson family donation cannot be requested until funds are received. In order for construction to proceed in 2015 fall, bridge financing is needed to cover project commitments until such time as the remaining Thomson family donation is received and budget can be requested. As the donations are received the borrowed funds will be repaid.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

A number of other ENMAX Legacy Parks Program projects approved in Phases 1, 2 and 3 of the program are underway or complete. Attachment 2 contains a status update on all ENMAX Legacy projects. Attachment 3 contains a financial update for all projects including actuals as of 2015 May 31.

In order for the construction of Thomson Family Park to remain on schedule, tender documentation needs to be approved and completed this summer. Administration reviewed other funding sources and determined that the timeliest option was to use Legacy Phase 3 funding to bridge finance the project in order to access the full donation today. The next opportunity to move funding forward at Council is 2015 September and this timing will cause project delays. Funding will be returned to Legacy Phase 3 as donation instalments are received from the Thomson family through to 2018. The proposed bridge financing is summarized in Attachment 4.

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Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

The Thomson Family Park project has undergone extensive community and public engagement during the visioning and conceptual design phase completed in 2014. The final concept plan for the park was presented to the public in 2015 February and ongoing engagement with the Thomson family and key stakeholders have continued through the design development and detailed design phase.

Strategic Alignment

This report aligns with the 2015-2018 Action Plan and supports Council Outcomes:

- H5 (*protect and enhance our urban forest and natural landscape throughout Calgary*);
- H6 (*continue to build public awareness and understanding of our shared responsibility to conserve and protect the environment*); and
- H9 (*optimize the existing parks network to ensure Calgarians have access to nature and healthy and active lifestyles*).

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

Social

Open space and park redevelopment will continue to support great park opportunities and experiences including both active and passive recreation for all Calgarians. Thomson Family Park will provide much needed quality green space in the Beltline community which is currently deficient in green space.

Environmental

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

Economic

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:

No budget implications.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

\$2 million in existing Legacy Phase 3 appropriations (program 499, project 852) will be redirected to Thomson Family Park. Funds accessed will be replaced through a Thomson family donation spread between 2014-2018. Execution of other Legacy Phase 3 projects will not be impacted.

Risk Assessment

No risks associated with this update.

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REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

Future meeting agendas, status update on the ENMAX Legacy Parks projects, and a financial update are provided quarterly to the Legacy Parks Fund Steering Committee. The proposed bridge financing from Legacy Phase 3 is required to allow the construction phase of Thomson Family Park to remain on schedule. The funds will be returned to Legacy Phase 3 as the private donation instalments are received.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Legacy Parks Fund Steering Committee Proposed Agenda – 2015 October 22
2. ENMAX Legacy Parks Program Phase 3 – Project Status Update
3. Legacy Parks Financial Update
4. Summary of Legacy Phase 3 Funding for Thomson Family Park