

ENMAX LEGACY PARKS PROGRAM – QUARTERLY UPDATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The ENMAX Legacy Parks Program funds are allocated towards upgrades to existing regional parks, development of new regional parks, and improving existing community parks in underserved areas. This report provides highlights for projects from Phases 1, 2 and 3 of the ENMAX Legacy Parks Program.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Legacy Parks Fund Steering Committee receive for information the ENMAX Legacy Parks Program – Quarterly Update report.

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 (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 the Attachment 1 associated with that report.

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 meeting of Council, LPC2014-0823 Proposed Phase 3 ENMAX Legacy Parks Projects was approved.

On 2015 July 20, Council approved access to Legacy Phase 3 funds to bridge finance the Thomson Family Park in LPC2015-0574 ENMAX Legacy Parks Program – Quarterly Update as outlined in the Attachment 4 associated with that report.

On 2015 October 19, Council approved the amendment to the Legacy Parks Fund Steering Committee Terms of Reference composition of the Steering Committee to include the General Manager of Community Services (CS).

BACKGROUND

Council created the ENMAX Legacy Parks Program in 2003, and since that time it has been instrumental in the acquisition and development of new regional parks and the redevelopment of existing regional parks across Calgary. Regional parks serve multiple communities, large catchment areas and tend to be multi-hour destinations for citizens. Unlike community parks, they are not acquired, funded or constructed through the development and subdivision process, subsequently requiring alternate funding sources.

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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.

In 2014 March through report LPC2014-0172, Council approved three additional criteria for the ENMAX Legacy Parks Program. The new criteria expanded the program's focus from not only regional parks to local community open space needs as well. The new criteria addresses the need for investment in local parks in communities in transition and in communities that are underserved in open space, and also supports community focused open space initiatives.

On 2014 November 03, Council approved the ENMAX Legacy Parks Phase 3 projects. The status of these projects, as well as the projects approved in Phase 1 and 2 can be found in the Attachment.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

The majority of ENMAX Legacy Parks Program projects in Phase 1 and 2 are now complete. Work will continue on Nose Hill Park in 2016 and access improvements to Ralph Klein Park (84 Street SE) will also be undertaken. The Legacy-funded project components of Devonian Gardens are complete with work to repair deficiencies currently underway. The Clearwater Park Development Plan will come forward to Council in April 2016.

The 17 approved Phase 3 capital projects are all at various stages of conceptual design, detailed design or construction. The preferred concept and redevelopment plan for Century Gardens was unanimously passed by Council on 2016 January 12. Prairie Winds Park and Thomson Family Park will be moving into construction this year and the Bend in the Bow stakeholder engagement is entering its second phase.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

Research, communication and stakeholder engagement is undertaken on a project by project basis within the ENMAX Legacy Program.

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*).
- H9 (*optimize the existing parks network to ensure Calgarians have access to nature and healthy and active lifestyles*).

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

Park development and redevelopment and the analysis of changing open space needs in communities will lead to great park opportunities and experiences including both active and passive recreation for all Calgarians.

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Park space provides for more sustainable communities as densities increase, 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.

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:

As proposed capital improvements are implemented, impacts to operations may result due to new park assets and increased usage. A preliminary analysis of current and anticipated operation impacts will be completed by Administration. If necessary, Administration will bring forward a funding request through the budget process.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

No budget implications at this time.

Risk Assessment

No risks associated with this update at this time.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

Status updates on ENMAX Legacy Parks projects are provided at the quarterly meetings of the Legacy Parks Fund Steering Committee.

ATTACHMENT(S)

None