

Ward 2 Project Summary Report

Project Description

The Hawkwood Outdoor Recreation Facility Project (Hawkwood ORF), now called Hawkwood Community Park, is located at 85 Hawkhill Road NW. The Hawkwood Community Association (HCA) possesses a License of Occupation for the site.

Hawkwood Community Park includes:

- a multi-purpose community rink (serving as a basketball court during the summer) and double tennis courts with pickleball lines;
- pathways and landscaped areas; and
- multi-generational amenities such as picnic tables, a fire pit area, and social gathering spaces.

Planning began in 2019, when the HCA formed a project committee. However, need for the facility was identified in a 2014 Community Association survey.

The project cost a total of \$1.83 million dollars, of which the Council Community Fund (CCF) grant represents \$500,000. The remaining costs were funded through at least eleven (11) other sources including: the province's Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP); other City grants; various Parks Foundation grants; casino proceeds; individual, corporate, and foundation donations; and general fundraising.

Construction began in April 2020 with substantial completion occurring in December 2021.

Outcomes

The original funding application identified desired outcomes, including the following:

Desired Outcomes	Results
Increased usage	The HCA has observed substantially more usage of the space. A future survey is expected to confirm this.
Increased community engagement	Two new programs have been introduced: the HCA Pickleball Group and Community Basketball Camp. The HCA has also hosted 3 community-wide events attracting close to 400 people, more than double the event attendance seen before the project's completion.
Increased Community Association membership	HCA had 375 memberships as of August 2023, up from 173 in May 2020 (prior to project completion).

Use of Council Community Fund Grant

The CCF grant funds were allocated to the following project elements.

Items covered by Council Community Fund	Budget	Actual
Multi-purpose rink	\$325,000.00	\$325,000.00
Rink water system	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00
Parks water line/winter water service: supply and install for ice surface	\$30,000.00	\$20,000.00

Items covered by Council Community Fund	Budget	Actual
Custom work parkour elements and foundations	\$55,000.00	\$55,000.00
Planting of coniferous and deciduous trees	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
GST		\$24,500.00
Total	\$500,000.00	*\$514,500.00

*Covered from other funding sources.

Project Learnings

Other outcomes of the project included several learnings.

Learning #1: Volunteer resources

- The Hawkwood ORF Project’s success was in large part due to the efforts of a small group of committed volunteers, as is typical for these kinds of initiatives. Efforts to attract and retain volunteers remains a challenge for organizations across Calgary.
- The City should consider: how to continue best supporting community members in leading initiatives such as the Hawkwood ORF Project.

Learning #2: Non-standard processes

- The Project experienced delays due to confusion over a lack of understanding of, at the time, the newly implemented processes. This led to additional costs for The City and for the HCA.
- The City should consider: continuing efforts to address additional staff training, process changes, or other efforts, to improve inter-departmental coordination and support the success of community-led projects; and the creation of a more standardized process for community-led projects, including ‘toolkits’ that volunteers may leverage for needs assessments.

Learning #3: Funding sources

- As stated above, the Project leveraged over ten different funding sources. Identifying the right funding sources was a challenge and required significant effort by volunteers.
- The City should consider: providing (directly, or through partners) greater assistance to community groups in identifying funding sources, for example through compiling a ‘grants catalog’ or similar resource; and exploring innovative funding sources for community-led projects.

External Engagement and Communication

The Ward 2 office discussed the Hawkwood (ORF) Project with current and past representatives of the HCA.

Social and Environmental Implications

The Hawkwood ORF Project has contributed to improved community engagement in Hawkwood.

The Hawkwood ORF Project was designed collaboratively with relevant City of Calgary Business Units to provide cohesive landscape design and environmental risk mitigation.