

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 status and financial updates for projects from Phases 1, 2 and 3 of the ENMAX Legacy Parks Program (Attachment 1) as well as provides descriptions of all of the capital work planned for 2016 in the ENMAX Legacy Parks Program 2016 Workplan (Attachment 2).

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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,

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they are not acquired, funded or constructed through the development and subdivision process, subsequently requiring alternate funding sources.

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 Attachment 1.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

Many of the ENMAX Legacy Parks Program projects approved in Phases 1, 2 and 3 of the program are underway or complete. Attachment 1 contains status and financial updates (including actuals as of 2015 December 31) on all ENMAX Legacy projects.

Highlights of the Phase 1 and 2 projects include:

- 12 of the 18 projects are now complete.
- Projects that are currently active include Nose Hill Park, Devonian Gardens and Ralph Klein Park.

Highlights of the Phase 3 projects include:

- 17 of the 18 approved projects are currently active and at various stages of conceptual design, detailed design or construction.
- Forest Lawn Creek Park design and construction is now proceeding in coordination with the adjacent development led by the Office of Land Serving and Housing (OLSH).
- Century Gardens Redevelopment Plan and Preferred Concept Plan will go forward to Council in Q1 2016.

Refer to Attachment 1 for further details on the status and financial information of all 36 ENMAX Legacy Projects in Phases 1, 2 and 3. As well, refer to Attachment 2 for the ENMAX Legacy Parks Program 2016 Workplan.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

No stakeholder engagement at this time.

Strategic Alignment

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

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- 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)

Social

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.

Environmental

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.

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:

No budget implications.

Risk Assessment

No risks associated with this update.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. ENMAX Legacy Parks Program – Project Status and Financial Update
2. ENMAX Legacy Parks Program – 2016 Workplan