

Background and Previous Council Direction

Background

Since 1996, Parks & Open Spaces has worked closely with community groups (including businesses and developers) who have had a desire to invest in and enhance their community. The Parks Enhanced Landscape Maintenance and Infrastructure Agreements Policy was approved in 2002, to manage community delivered enhanced levels of landscape maintenance services and the maintenance for community installed non-standard infrastructure (optional amenities) in parks and open spaces which may include medians, boulevards, and roundabouts.

This policy was in response to Council requesting that Administration develop a comprehensive Community Policy to facilitate desired levels of Park maintenance on a City-wide basis and governs the operational, financial, and legal requirements for community groups who hold these agreements with Parks. The policy currently identifies four agreement types and details specific funding, financial reporting, administrative costs, approval authority, ownership, terms and termination of agreements, management of lands, design and construction requirements, repair and maintenance responsibilities, indemnification, and insurance requirements.

In 2024, there were 125 communities, 189 community partners and 297 agreements in place under this policy managing community investments into Calgary's parks and open spaces. Most of these agreements are for non-standard infrastructure (optional amenities) while the remaining are primarily related to enhanced landscape maintenance services delivered by community organizations through the Enhanced Landscape Maintenance (ELM) program, the Special Tax Levy (STL) program and the Snow Removal and Ice Control (SNIC) program.

Previous Council Direction

Date	Reference	Overview
2009 February 10	CPS2009-05	<p>An amendment to the voting procedure to the Parks Special Tax Levy Policy (Enhanced Landscape Maintenance and Infrastructure Agreements).</p> <p>The proposed changes allow for the vote every 5 years, continuing with or eliminating the Special Tax Levy, to take place at the AGM, rather than a separate mail out vote. The communities feel that this will be more cost effective and easier to administer.</p>

Date	Reference	Overview
2008 November 24	NM2008-51	Notice of Motion directing Administration to prepare an amended policy to include a vote to occur every 5 years to continue in the agreement with 50% +1. This amendment to be applied to the Special Tax Levy only.
2006 March 13	CPS2006-17	Council approved the recommendations in CPS2006-17 of proposed improvements to the current policy and procedures regarding Landscape Maintenance Agreements (Agreements) and the Special Tax Levies (Levies) that may be used as a funding source.
2004 November 22	CPS2004-72	Council approved the recommendations to accept the proposed amendments in 2004-72, Enhanced Landscape Maintenance and Infrastructure Agreements. Council approved the recommendation directing Administration to review the Agreement with the stakeholders, in consultation with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape Maintenance Agreement Participants; • Special Tax Levy Participants; and • Endowment Fund Participants; in order to find improvements to the current policies, and report back to a Meeting of the S.P.C on Community and Protective Services not later than January 2006.
2004 November 22	CPS2004-61	Council approved the amendments to CPS2003-09, Enhanced Landscape Maintenance and Infrastructure Agreements policies.
2003 March 3	CPS2003-09	Council approved the recommended policies to enable enhanced features and green space incorporation into new communities without an increase in costs to The City of Calgary, Enhanced Community Features and Passive Space in New Communities.
2002 July 22	NM2002-39	Council directed Administration to come forward with recommendations for a consistent City policy for approval of new communities planning to incorporate enhanced features and green space that would address initial funding and funding after the development has been FAC'd.

Date	Reference	Overview
2002 July 02	CPS2002-50	<p>Council approved recommendations to continue with the continue the Special Tax Levies for Enhanced Landscape Maintenance/Recreational Services and approved in principle the recommendations to develop consistent corporate policies and procedures for the use of Special Tax Levies (Enhanced Landscape Maintenance Agreements, Recreational Service Agreements), Special Development Agreements and Optional Amenity Agreements.</p> <p>Council directed Administration to review the continued use of Special Tax levies, upon completion of a comprehensive Community Policy and a review of sustainability and funding alternatives available to facilitate desired levels of Park maintenance on a City wide basis and report back through the S.P.C. on Community and Protective Services no later than 2004 April; and to not collect membership fees and other payments on behalf of Residents' Associations, Community Associations and Social Recreation Groups.</p>

Bylaws, Regulations, Council Policies

Enhanced Landscape Maintenance and Infrastructure Agreements Policy (CSPS007)

- This policy is a tool used for the development industry (landscape architects, engineers, consultants, Resident and Community Associations) for the management and administration of enhanced park features - Optional Amenities. More specifically addresses the issues of lifecycle, ongoing maintenance, financial concerns and legal implications.
- This policy also addresses the need for consistent administration of Maintenance Agreements and Special Tax Levies and operates as a manual for both Residents and Community Associations effected.

Parks and Pathways Bylaw #11M2019

- This bylaw provides that a council may pass bylaws respecting people, activities and things in, on or near a public place or place that is open to the public.