

Community Services Report to  
Executive Committee  
2025 May 13

ISC: UNRESTRICTED  
EC2025-0307

### Council Community Fund Application – Symons Valley Leisure and Amenities Society

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to request approval for the Council Community Fund application from the Symons Valley Leisure and Amenities Society (SVLAS) to support Phase 1 of the Symons Valley Sports & Recreation Community Hub (the Project).

#### PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

In 2019, Council introduced a new fund dedicated to community-driven projects called the Council Community Fund. Background and Previous Council Direction is included in Attachment 1. The Terms of Reference were updated in 2024, with the revised version in Attachment 2.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Executive Committee recommend that Council:

1. Approve the Council Community Fund application from the Symons Valley Leisure and Amenities Societies for Phase 1 of the Symons Valley Sport & Recreation Community Hub project as a one-time funding request in the amount of \$500,000; and
2. Direct Administration to report back to the Executive Committee within 12 months of project completion.

#### CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

General Manager Les Tocher and Katie Black concur with the contents of this report.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- **Funding Request:** Symons Valley Leisure and Amenities Society (SVLAS) is seeking \$500,000 from the Council Community Fund for Phase 1 of an outdoor recreation amenity project – Symons Valley Sport & Recreation Community Hub (the Project).
- **Phase 1 Details:** Phase 1 includes the installation of an all-season rink, asphalt pathways, an asphalt parking lot, and related consulting and permit fees. The estimated total cost for Phase 1 is \$2,800,000.
- **Community Impact:** Completion of Phase 1 of the Project will create an outdoor recreation rink area for the four Symons Valley communities, serving over 21,000 residents and 33,700 projected residents.
- **Sponsorship:** This application is sponsored by Councillor Wyness, the Ward Councillor for the area, and aligns with the Council Community Fund Terms of Reference (Attachment 2).
- **Plan Realization:** Phase 1 will support the implementation of the Symons Valley Community Plan (Bylaw 6P2001), Place Matters: A North Calgary Project document, GamePLAN for Facilities, and Connect: Calgary's Parks Plan.

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**DISCUSSION**

SVLAS is requesting \$500,000 from the Council Community Fund for Phase 1 of the Project. This community-driven initiative aims to create an all-season outdoor recreation and leisure hub for the Northwest communities of Kincora, Nolan Hill, Sage Hill, and Sherwood. It was identified as a key priority in the 2023 Place Matters: A North Calgary Project study, conducted by Parks Foundation Calgary and VIVO.

The Project will serve as a vital public space offering recreational activities, community events, and wellness programs. It has strong community support, demonstrated by high resident engagement, ongoing fundraising and partnership development. The Project is designed to be accessible, inclusive, and sustainable, providing range of year-round amenities that promote social connection, community engagement, and local well-being. It will also reduce long-term maintenance costs through smart design.

A conceptual design, as outlined in Attachment 3, has been developed with input from over 1,500 residents on preferred amenities. Key features under consideration include outdoor sports facilities (e.g. basketball and pickleball/tennis courts), a full-size hockey rink, inclusive playground, picnic areas, pathways and amphitheater and community gathering areas.

Multiple community events have been hosted on the designate land parcel, drawing several hundred attendees each year and reinforcing the demand for a permanent facility.

The Project is led by SVLAS, a non-profit organization incorporated under the Government of Alberta's Societies Act. SVLAS is entirely volunteer-run and have developed a comprehensive business plan and case-for-support, included in Attachment 3, to guide fundraising efforts and support the recent License of Occupation application to The City.

**EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public engagement was undertaken        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dialogue with interested parties was undertaken |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public/interested parties were informed | <input type="checkbox"/> Public communication or engagement was not required        |

Through seven years of operation, the SVLAS has cultivated key relationships and partnerships with local communities and governments. To determine the best features for future amenities and to encourage community buy-in and participation in the park design process, SVLAS prepared a comprehensive community engagement process. This process included surveys, events, solicitation of volunteers, and support from local businesses. The engagement received a strong response, with over 1,500 submissions: Sherwood (90), Kincora (426), Sage Hill (426), Nolan Hill (347), and Other (143). Regular communication with residents has been maintained through SVLAS website and social media channels to keep the community informed and engaged in the Project.

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**IMPLICATIONS**

**Social**

The primary purpose of the Project is to provide and promote social and recreational activities for residents of the four communities in the Symons Valley residential area of northwest Calgary: Nolan Hill, Sage Hill, Kincora, and Sherwood, as well as those from neighbouring communities. Given the lack of outdoor social and recreational amenities in the region, creating community-accessible, all-season outdoor recreation and leisure amenities will offer substantial public benefits.

**Environmental**

The SVLAS has been mindful of the environmental impact of the Project throughout the planning process and will continue this focus during construction. The concept design includes preserving existing trees and incorporating natural features such as a forested area with walking and biking pathways, an apple orchard, and an open lawn. The Project is designed for sustainability with minimal maintenance requirements, thereby reducing operational costs. Its location is convenient for all four communities, with walking distances ranging from one to thirty minutes and most bike routes under ten minutes, reducing the need for drive to amenities outside the community.

**Economic**

The Project will be tendered in the local construction market, allowing companies to bid on various components. The creation of a new outdoor recreation amenity will enable SVLAS to host programs and events, supporting local community businesses through future partnership and sponsorship opportunities. This will contribute to economic stability and community pride. Additionally, the amenity is projected to attract grassroots sports groups, generating rental revenue for the association.

**Service and Financial Implications**

**Other: Council Community Fund**

The estimated cost for Phase 1 is \$2.8 million, with the total cost for all four phases projected at \$6.6 million. SVLAS is supported by, and working with, Parks Foundation Calgary to secure funding through corporate sponsorships, grants, and \$500,000 from the Council Community Fund. This funding will help leverage grants from the Government of Alberta's Community Facility Enhancement Program and relevant funding programs from the Government of Canada. Additional grant streams available to be applied for include \$125,000 through the Amateur Sport Grant and \$50,000 through the Building Communities Grant. Initial seed money is needed to hire a Landscape Architect to collaborate with the SVLAS Board on refining Phase 1 options selection and updating the cost estimate. Attachment 3 outlines the Phase 1 Project Construction Budget and anticipated funding sources. The balance of the Council Community Fund is \$1.625 million.

**RISK**

If this application is unsuccessful, SVLAS will have insufficient funds to complete Phase 1 of the Project. As most grants require matching funds, this Project will not be able to proceed and

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current funds for the project will be held in trust by the Calgary Parks Foundation. Further delays due to funding shortages would revise timelines, increase costs, and prolong the gap in accessible public spaces for these communities.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Background and Previous Council Direction
2. Terms of Reference for the Council Community Fund
3. Application for Council Community Fund-Symons Valley Leisure and Amenities Society
4. Presentation

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Katie Black	Community Services	Approve
Les Tochor	Corporate Planning & Financial Services	Approve
Doug Morgan	Operational Services	Inform

Author: Aaron Taylor, Partnerships