

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 under serviced areas of The City. In 2013 May, Council approved an amendment to the Legacy Parks Fund Steering Committee Terms of Reference which proposed quarterly meetings, at the call of the Chair (Mayor). In 2014 September, the 2015 Legacy Parks Fund Steering Committee (LPFSC) meeting dates were set for January 08, April 02 (cancelled), July 02 and October 22. This report provides status and financial updates for projects from Phases 1, 2 and 3 of the ENMAX Legacy Parks Program (Attachment 1). An information update for two parks in the Legacy program, Clearwater Legacy Park and Century Gardens Park, are found in Attachments 2 and 3. The preferred concept plans and Design Development Plans for these parks will go forward to the SPC on Community and Protective Services and Council in 2015 Q4.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Legacy Parks Fund Steering Committee:

1. Receive for information the ENMAX Legacy Parks Program – Project Status and Financial Update (Attachment 1); and
2. Receive for information updates for Clearwater Legacy Park (Attachment 2) and Century Gardens Park (Attachment 3).

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.

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BACKGROUND

The ENMAX Legacy Parks Program has been instrumental in the acquisition and development of new regional parks as well as the lifecycle and upgrading of a number of existing regional parks across Calgary since the program was created by Council in 2003. Regional parks serve multiple communities, large catchment areas and tend to be multi-hour destinations for citizens. Unlike community open space, 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 regional park land acquisitions and development and/or redevelopment of regional parks to focus on local community open space needs as well. The new criteria support local open space needs by investing in communities in transition, communities that are underserved in local open space, and supporting other community focused open space initiatives.

At the 2014 November 03 and 04 meeting of Council ENMAX Legacy Parks Phase 3 projects were approved. The status of these projects is summarized in the Attachment 1. In 2014, Council approved new terms of reference that proposed quarterly meetings at the call of the chair (Mayor). At the 2015 January meeting of the Legacy Parks Fund Steering Committee, the Committee requested that agendas come forward for future meetings as part of the quarterly LPC report. A future agenda has not been provided as part of this report; this is the last meeting of 2015 and, at the time of the writing this report, the meeting schedules have not been set for 2016.

An amendment to the Legacy Parks Fund Steering Committee Terms of Reference was proposed to Council on 2015 October 19 to amend the composition of the Steering Committee to include the General Manager of Community Services & Protective Services (CS&PS).

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

A number of other 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 of as 2015 September 30) on all ENMAX Legacy projects from Phase 1, 2 and 3. Fourteen of the eighteen projects in Phases 1 and 2 are now complete. Memorial Drive and Nose Hill Park are still underway. Clearwater is currently awaiting further discussions on the provincial ring road and Devonian Gardens has deficiencies that are currently being addressed.

Eleven of the eighteen approved Phase 3 projects are currently underway and are at various stages of development. Phase 3 projects, Forest Lawn Creek Park and Northeast Regional Park, are on hold pending timing with developments. An additional five projects are currently scheduled to start in future years. For further details on the status and financial information on the thirty-six ENMAX Legacy Projects in Phases 1, 2 and 3 please see Attachment 1.

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Clearwater Legacy Park and Century Gardens Park have recently completed Design Development Plans (DDP). Clearwater Legacy Park is located along the north side of the Elbow River at The City's western limits and encompasses 65 hectares (160 acres) of pristine forest ecosystem along a glacier-fed mountain stream. The focus of the Clearwater DDP was to enable more citizens to access the site without risking damage to its unique natural assets. Century Gardens Park is a unique landscape built in the downtown core in honour of Calgary's 1975 centennial. The park contains concrete sculptural elements that symbolize the surrounding natural landscape; mountains, foothills and prairies. The DDP will allow greater interface with the adjacent developments, enhance the safety features and activity in the park, while keeping with the cultural heritage and integrity of the site. Project updates for the planned development and re-development of these parks are found in Attachments 2 and 3.

In 2015, the Legacy Park Steering Committee meetings provided committee members with status and financial updates on the approved Legacy Parks. The committee members provided strategic guidance of the ENMAX Legacy Fund in support of high priority Parks projects, including a land acquisition for a new regional park and bridge financing for Thomson Family Park, a centre city destination park. Administration also arranged a tour of Haskayne Park for committee members in September 2015. In 2016, the Committee will continue to play a vital role in maximizing the impact of the ENMAX Legacy Parks Fund through reviewing the status of the current projects and governing the investment decisions of the program. The Committee will also receive updates on Design Development Plans for Legacy Parks projects as they are completed.

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:

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

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

Social

Open space and park redevelopment will continue to support great park opportunities and experiences including both active and passive recreation for all Calgarians.

Environmental

Additional regional open space provides for more sustainable communities as density increases 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.

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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.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

Status and financial updates on ENMAX Legacy Parks projects are provided at the quarterly meetings of the Legacy Parks Fund Steering Committee. Updates on completed Design Development Plans for ENMAX Legacy Parks projects are brought forward to Legacy Parks Fund Steering Committee prior to going forward to the Standing Policy Committee on Community and Protective Services Committee and Council.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. ENMAX Legacy Parks Program – Project Status and Financial Update
2. Clearwater Legacy Park Project Update
3. Century Gardens Park Project Update