



THE CITY OF CALGARY OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Application to the City of Calgary Council Innovation Fund

Date: May 25, 2018

Name of Project: **Springbank Hill Community Park**

Sponsor: **Councillor Jeff Davison**
Phone Number: **403-268-1035**
Address: **PO Box STN M. Calgary, AB T2P 2M5**

Affected Business Unit(s) and/or Departments: Calgary Parks, Calgary Neighbourhoods

Amount of Funds Requested: **\$325,000**

Summary Description of Project (Max 1 page):
(Please attach all relevant information)

Springbank Hill is a large and diverse suburb near the City limits in the Southwest (SW) quadrant of Calgary. The Springbank Hill community is one of 14 communities located in Ward 6, served by Councillor Jeff Davison.

During the development of the Springbank Hill community, 6.29 acres of land on 26th Avenue SW between 77 Street and 69 Street was placed on reserve for the SBHCA to develop to benefit the community at large. The land was placed on reserve for the SBHCA to establish a focal point for its communities. The SBHCA has been working in collaboration and partnership with the City of Calgary Parks to establish the community park for the past several years.

The Springbank Hill Community Association (SBHCA) has taken the last 10 years to reflect and consult its community members to set priorities for the development of the land. In each of the community consultations, a recurring theme emerged: the development of a natural/recreational park setting.

The proposed park design offers both static and dynamic opportunities to its varied user groups such as neighbourhood families, school groups and recreational visitors. A variety of park elements have been explored, each drawn from community feedback and creation of features that fit within the natural setting. The park's form takes advantage of the natural topography and vast tree cover to foster an engaging space year-round, rife with interpretive opportunities for social gathering, interpretive education, creative play and free movement within and beyond. As the design continues to evolve, these notions of "nested spaces" discovered along the adventure will begin to take even more exciting shape, ultimately creating a one-of-a-kind park experience for the entire community.

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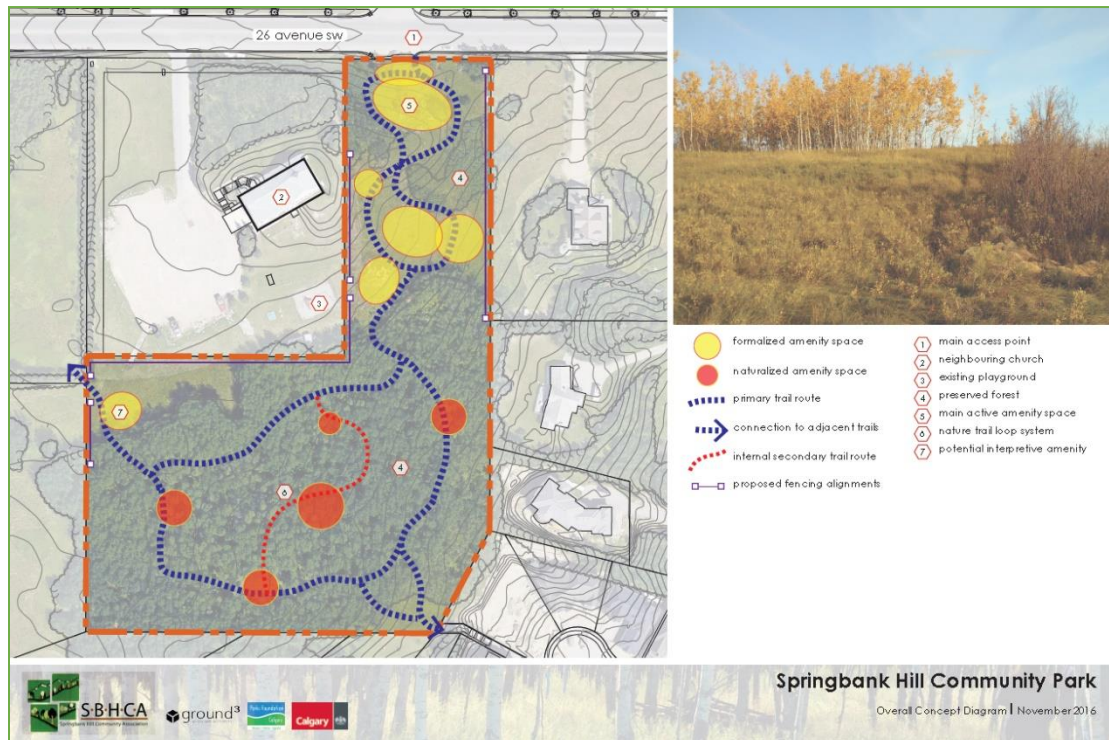


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The main entrance of the natural forested park is along the south side of 26 Avenue SW with two additional community-based entrances from the west and east, making the park easily accessible to the general public. As depicted in the diagram below, the conceptual plan includes formal amenity spaces with multiple creative play and reflection spaces interwoven, as depicted in Illustration below. The formal spaces are created for community gathering, and connection points provide an interplay of a great lawn, shaded picnic areas, rolling hills, and a boardwalk leading to the forested areas. The informal spaces and unstructured areas make up the largest section of the park at approximately 5 acres with heavily forested areas. The design calls for the creation of nodes to allow for discovery, interaction with nature, unstructured play and personal reflection.

These combined space allows the community to engage formally and informally with friends, family and neighbours.



Springbank Hill Community Park Conceptual Plan



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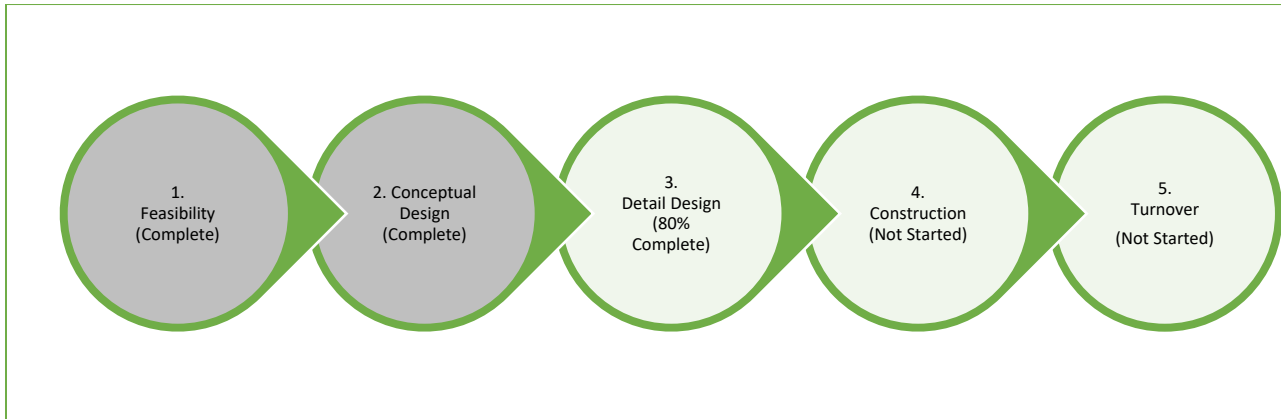


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Propose Timeline (including proposed date of final report):

The project is following a formal project and construction methodology allowing for successful execution of the project.



The project has completed the first two phases and is finalizing the detail design before moving onto the construction phase. The SBHCA expects to commence the construction phase on July 1, 2018, with an expected completion date of October 31, 2018. The formal turnover of the park will occur in the Spring of 2019 from the project team to the SBHCA.

How does this project meet the criteria of the fund as set out in the Terms of Reference for the Council Innovation Fund?

This application falls within the criteria of the fund as set out in the Terms of Reference for the Council Innovation Fund. In particular, this project addresses Section 2b, as it is a project or experiment that “has the potential to change city-wide policies and procedures”.

The significant and innovative factors of this project is that it has been community led, developed and driven. For over eleven years, this project has been driven by the Springbank Hill Community Association and was accelerated when Springbank Hill was an inaugural community of the “This is My Neighbourhood” (TIMN) initiative.

The “This is my Neighbourhood” initiative was created as a way to help residents identify how their community could become an even better place to live, work and play. This application is a positive outcome of the TIMN and emphasizes the innovative practice of community-led engagement and planning.

The community of Springbank Hill has worked innovatively with various levels of government to realize the creation of this park. They have raised significant funds through the AGLC and applied and received grants from Alberta Culture through their CFEP application process. Moreover, the community consulted extensively with the Parks Foundation to assist with conceptual design and financial administration of the project. The community association has also led fundraisers to raise funds for the project.



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In doing so, the community has effectively led a “public-private-partnership (P3)” model for the conception, design and implementation of the project. The community has a vision for this space, and innovatively, through the coordination of multiple departments and levels of government, has driven the execution of this project. The success of this application will allow the community to realize its goals for a park while making Springbank a better place for the entire Ward 6 community.

The innovative approach of a community-led “public-private-partnership” has the potential to set precedent in the City of Calgary. Therefore, this application successfully fulfils the criteria of the Terms of Reference for the Council Innovation Fund.

This project also supports the goals of Council as set out in current Council priorities:

1. A City of inspiring neighbourhoods – The SBHCA wants to actively promote a vibrant, safe and close-knit community for all its residents. This park will allow neighbours to come together to build memories from the picnic areas to the forested areas.
2. A City that moves – this natural play space promotes active play as well as creative, imaginative, nature-based and self-directed play that is vital to children’s cognitive, emotional and social development.
3. A healthy and green City- the natural play space promotes connection of people of all ages to nature. It will be made predominately with natural elements such as sand, water, wood, landforms, plants and boulders. This type of play space contains as few synthetic/man-made components and structures as possible.

What does success look like and how will it be measured?

What does success look like?

SBHCA’s aspiration for this park is ambitious; too often in recent years, urban architecture – under pressure from urbanising rural populations, greater human longevity and shrinking budgets – has neglected the importance of open spaces in a healthy City landscape. We keep crowding more buildings and homes into dense concentrations, while short-changing the enormous impact that well designed open spaces and green spaces can have on the quality of urban life. The park will be a central place where creativity, play, and contemplation are its core. The park will place an emphasis on human stewardship of collective responsibility to nature and to protect the natural world.

How will success be measured?

The success of this project is based on multiple factors:

1. A park that is in complete alignment to the vision of the SBH community members based on extensive community consultation process undertaken by the SBHCA over a 8-10 year period;
2. A park design that is rooted in ensuring preservation of history of the land, forest, and the animals that use this space;

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3. Maintaining project and financial discipline;
4. A central place for promoting community connections and engagement;
5. Families and friends using the space for creating long-lasting memories;
6. Build and maintain a strong partnership with the City of Calgary and Calgary Parks to ensure a sustained and long-term maintenance program for the park;
7. Accessibility for all residents within and outside of SBHC.



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