

Deputy City Manager's Office
Intergovernmental Affairs Committee
2018 December 20

ISC: UNRESTRICTED
IGA2018-1398

Regional Recreation Study - Phase Two Grant Application

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Chestermere ("Chestermere") has expressed great interest in participating in the Regional Recreation Study that is currently underway. It is a cooperative project jointly administered by The City of Calgary ("The City") and Rocky View County ("RVC") that explores opportunities for developing intermunicipal approaches to providing recreation, cultural and community services in northwest Calgary and west & northwest RVC.

Calgary Recreation has identified a grant opportunity through the Government of Alberta's ("GoA") Alberta Community Partnership program ("ACP") for an additional phase 2 to the current Regional Recreation Study that will focus on intermunicipal recreation issues between The City, RVC and Chestermere. With their administration's support, Calgary Recreation has submitted an application to the ACP program for \$200,000. To complete the application all three municipalities must pass and submit resolutions of support by no later than 2019 February 1 to the GoA. If the ACP grant application is successful, the phase 2 of the Regional Recreation Study would be tendered and conducted from Q4 2019 to the end Q4 2020.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approve The City of Calgary's involvement in an Alberta Community Partnership grant application for a project that would be a collaboration between The City of Calgary, Rocky View County and the City of Chestermere with the project titled: Regional Recreation Study of Calgary Municipal Region - Phase 2; and
2. Direct Administration to bring a report on the project outcomes to the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee upon completion of the project.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

At the 2018 January 29 Regular Meeting of Council, Council received Verbal Report C2018-0111 Alberta Community Partnership Grant-Regional Recreation Study for The City of Calgary and Rocky View County. Council approved unanimously the recommended direction:

1. Approve The City of Calgary's involvement in the Alberta Community Partnership grant application and project titled: Regional Recreation Study for The City of Calgary and Rocky View County; and
2. Direct Administration to bring a report on the project outcomes to the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee upon completion of the project.

BACKGROUND

As part of the mediation settlement coming out of the Glenbow Ranch Area Structure Plan appeal, both The City and RVC agreed to collaborate on a Regional Recreation Study focused on the northwest quadrant of Calgary and areas west of the city within RVC. The Government of Alberta approved the grant in the summer of 2018. A working group was established, with representation from The City and RVC, who developed a Terms of Reference for the Regional Recreation Study and are preparing a Request for Proposals to tender a contractor to conduct the Regional Recreation Study in 2019-2020. The Regional Recreation Study is being developed with the intent that its methodology can be replicated and applied to look at recreation issues in other parts of the region for future studies.

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INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

Based on the positive feedback from the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board ("CMRB") and expressed interest by Chestermere to participate in the Regional Recreation Study currently underway, The City and RVC would like to utilize the learnings from the initial phase of their study and include Chestermere in a phase two of the Regional Recreation Study to explore opportunities for developing intermunicipal approaches to providing recreation, cultural and community services.

A consultant will be contracted to complete a comprehensive study of recreation service provision in the northeast regional recreation service area including East Calgary, the Eastern Districts of RVC, and Chestermere. This study will build on the results of a study already underway involving The City and RVC to examine recreation service provision in northwest Calgary and RVC areas west of the city. The specific objectives of the project are to:

- Assess current legislative requirements, applicable municipal policies, bylaws and plans of The City, RVC and Chestermere to gain an understanding of how these factors influence facility and service provision within the regional recreation service area;
- Inventory all publicly accessible recreation facilities and amenities located in the regional recreation service area;
- Determine utilization and current patterns of use, as well as demand for recreation facilities and amenities located in the regional recreation service area;
- Identify expectations, perceptions and priorities of residents living in the regional recreation service area regarding current and future recreation facilities and amenities;
- Identify current and future recreation facility and amenity needs of the regional recreation service area;
- Identify potential opportunities for addressing current and future gaps in recreation facilities and amenities in the regional recreation service area; and
- Examine best practices and develop recommended approaches to develop effective capital and operating funding models to address recreation needs.

The information gathered through the Regional Recreation Study will be used to:

- Determine impact and/or benefit of facilities and amenities for communities and their residents, regardless of jurisdiction;
- Identify potential mechanisms for determining appropriate cost sharing;
- Identify appropriate inter-municipal service delivery options; and
- Evaluate the appropriateness of developing an intermunicipal recreation, culture and community service agreement/plan.

If the application is successful, building upon work undertaken in phase one, a working group with representation from The City, RVC and Chestermere will be established to develop the Terms of Reference for phase two of the study and to develop the specifications for the Request for Proposal (RFP). The working group will work with the successful vendor to finalize the scope of work, key activities, deliverables and timelines. The format and content of the final report and supporting documents will be determined by the working group in consultation with their respective administration teams.

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Calgary Recreation and Intergovernmental & Corporate Strategy engaged senior administration at both the RVC and Chestermere regarding the grant opportunity and both administrations are supportive. All participating municipalities must pass resolutions of support by 2019 February 1 for the application to proceed and The City has received commitments from both municipalities senior administration leadership that they will bring this matter before their councils for approval.

Strategic Alignment

This aligns with previous Council direction on this issue.

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

A phase two to the Regional Recreation Study is in alignment with many of the policies found within the framework of the Triple Bottom Line including: An inclusive city; An active city; A cultural city; A city of strong neighbourhoods; Strategically invest in infrastructure; Invest and leverage investment in community infrastructure and programs; Encouraging a creative city; Creating a city where citizens want to live, work and invest; Encouraging sustainable communities; and Integrated decision-making and working with regional partners.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

This has no impact on the current operating budget as the study will only be carried out if the ACP grant is approved. A successful study may inform future recreation operating decisions.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

This has no direct impact on the current capital budget. A successful study may inform future capital decisions.

Risk Assessment

Minimal risk going forward with the study, however there may be reputational risks with our regional partners if Council declines to move forward with phase 2 to the Regional Recreation Study.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

Council passing a resolution of support for the phase 2 to the Regional Recreation Study by 2018 February 1 is critical for the Alberta Communities Partnership grant application to move forward and be considered by the Government of Alberta. A successful grant application would fund a phase two to the current Regional Recreation Study that is already being designed to be a repeatable template to analyze regional intermunicipal recreation issues. Both Rocky View County and the City of Chestermere are supportive of the grant application and the study would cooperatively review many recreation issues between the three municipalities.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Alberta Community Partnership – [Intermunicipal Collaboration] - Application