



Calgary Parks Enhanced Horticulture Evaluation

CPS2016-0869
SPC on Community and Protective Services
2016 November 2

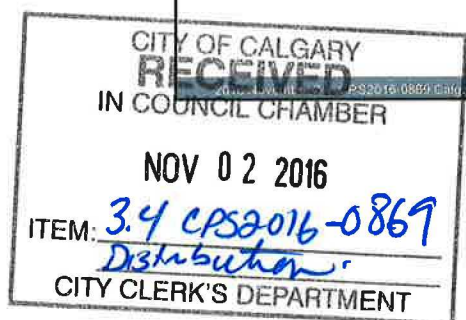
Calgary Council Direction

**Calgary Parks Proposed Enhanced Maintenance Program Review
(Report coming to Council in March 2017)**

On 2016 March 14, Council received CPS2016-0198 for information and directed Administration to report back on the program review and future state options no later than Q1 2017.

Motion Arising

On 2016 March 14, Council adopted the recommendation in CPS2016-0199 (Proposed 2016 Special Tax Bylaw), gave three readings to the 2016 Special Tax Bylaw (19M2016) and voted for the following MOTION ARISING (moved by Councillor Pincott, seconded by Councillor Chabot): *"that with respect to Report CPS2016-0199, Council direct Administration as part of the Mid-Cycle budget review, to review our city-wide Parks standards and bring options and associated costs back to Council."*





Enhanced Landscape Maintenance (Enhanced Communities)

In enhanced communities, uplift can occur in the following maintenance services within parks and boulevards:

- Flower / shrub bed establishment and care
- Turf mowing / trimming / cleanup
- Irrigation
- Weed management
- Turf aeration / fertilization / top dressing
- Pathway snow clearing



Cost Analysis: Community-Wide Implementation of Enhanced Standards

•Enhanced levy ranges from \$39 to \$219 per dwelling (2016)

•#1 community ask is floral horticulture; typically 50%+ of enhanced community budgets are spent on flowers

•Cost of enhanced maintenance is approximately 10 times higher than standard maintenance costs

•A \$5 city-wide, per door tax levy would generate approximately \$2.35M

•Cost to replicate enhanced level of service across city is very high



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Proposed Banner/Flower Pilot Program

- Current 96% Citizen Satisfaction rating for Calgary Parks (2015)
- Banner / flower pilot conducted in NE Calgary in summer 2016 to gauge interest in a program to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday
- Calgary Parks proposes to expand on this work and continue a modest two-year banner / flower pilot program
- Anticipate adding up to 20 communities per year (2017, 2018) across the city
- Analysis of pilot would inform future options



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Recommendations:

That the SPC on Community Services and Protective Services recommend that Council:

1. Receive this report as an item of urgent business at the 2016 November 7 Council meeting; and
2. Direct Administration to continue the banner / flower pilot program to further explore modest floral horticultural improvements in local parks and open spaces city-wide.

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