

REPORT

Parks & Recreation

To: Mayor Johnstone and Members of Council
Date: March 13, 2024

From: Dean Gibson,
Director of Parks and Recreation
File: 2266307

Item #: 2024-298

Subject: Parks & Recreation Plan – Council Engagement Workshop

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receives the framework overview for the Council Engagement Workshop, as outlined in this report, to update the Parks & Recreation Plan (“the Plan”); and

THAT Council provides input to help shape the draft Plan.

PURPOSE

This report provides an overview of the framework for the Engagement Workshop with Council on May 13, 2024 to update the Parks & Recreation Plan (“the Plan”).

BACKGROUND

At the [City Council Workshop on May 8, 2023](#), Council provided feedback on the Terms of Reference (TOR) which informed a Request for Proposal (RFP) used to retain a consultant team to develop an update that builds on the 2008 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan (PRCP).

On [December 11, 2023](#), staff provided an update to inform Council that a consultant team had been selected and that the process to update the 2008 PRCP would be launched in early 2024.

On [March 11, 2024](#), Council provided feedback on the proposed Engagement Strategy to update the Parks & Recreation Plan and endorsed next steps to actively engage the community starting in April 2024.

DISCUSSION

The workshop is an opportunity for Council to provide input to help shape the Plan, including an aspirational outlook (to 2050) and implementation strategy (to 2035), to help:

- Identify new and evolving areas of focus;
- Incorporate strategic priorities; and
- Provide ideas for innovative ways to identify and address gaps in service.

The format for the interactive Council workshop will be the same format used to solicit input from interest groups and members of the public. The consultant team will facilitate the workshop with the following agenda:

- 1) Welcome and Introductions (5 minutes)
- 2) Overview presentation (10-15 minutes) that includes:
 - Project Context
 - Guiding Principles
 - Process
 - Purpose of the Workshop
- 3) Interactive session (90 minutes) where Council will be asked to provide input on Parks & Recreation spaces and places as well as programs and services:
 - a. Strengths
 - Outdoor Recreation Spaces, Amenities, and Programs
 - Indoor Recreation Facilities and Programs
 - b. Challenges
 - Outdoor Recreation Spaces, Amenities, and Programs
 - Indoor Recreation Facilities and Programs
 - c. Vision (aspirations to 2050)
 - Outdoor Recreation Spaces, Amenities, and Programs
 - Indoor Recreation Facilities and Programs
 - d. Ideas (specific to 10 Year Implementation Plan to 2035)
 - Outdoor Recreation Spaces, Amenities, and Programs
 - Indoor Recreation Facilities and Programs

NEXT STEPS

With the conclusion of this workshop, the project team will incorporate Council’s input into the Engagement Summary for Phase 1 which will also include input from a variety of interest groups and members of the public (refer to the [Be Heard](#) project page for the list of engagement opportunities). The Engagement Summary will be presented to

Council in summer 2024 and shared back with the community through the Be Heard project page. The consultant team will then begin Phase 2 of the project: New Westminster Growth Analysis (April - October 2024) to inform Phase 3: Final Report with Recommendations and Implementation Plan (November -July 2025). A second phase of engagement is also planned to seek community and interest group input on the draft recommendations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2024 - 2028 Capital Plan includes \$250K to complete the Parks and Recreation Plan update.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL LIAISON

Interdepartmental liaison has occurred between staff from Parks & Recreation and the Manager of Public Engagement in the Office of the CAO. The Finance Department has reviewed the Financial Implications section of this report.

OPTIONS

The following are options for Council’s consideration:

- 1. That Council receives the framework overview for the Council Engagement Workshop, as outlined in this report, to update the Parks & Recreation Plan (“the Plan”); and
- 2. Provide input to help shape the Plan; or
- 3. Provide alternate direction to staff.

Options #1 and #2 are recommended.

CONCLUSION

Through an inclusive, meaningful and fun engagement process, the PRCP update will better equip the Parks & Recreation Department to respond meaningfully to the evolving needs of a growing community while continuing to advance equity, connectivity and access to parks and recreation services for all.

This report was prepared by:

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