

REPORT

Parks and Recreation

To: Mayor Cote and Members of Council **Date:** June 13, 2022

From: G. Dean Gibson
Director of Parks and Recreation **File:** 2084336

Item #: 2022-410

Subject: Parks and Recreation 2023 Fees and Charges Bylaw Amendment

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council consider first, second and third readings to Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw, No. 8343, 2022, a bylaw to amend the Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 6673, 2001 (Attachment “A”).

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with details on the 2023 Parks and Recreation proposed fee adjustments and to recommend endorsement by Council.

BACKGROUND

Parks and Recreation fees were historically set by policy, as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Committee, and approved by City Council. In 2000, the Local Government Act, and subsequently, the Community Charter required that fees and charges be approved through Bylaw.

Proposed changes to Fees & Charges Bylaw Amendment No. 8343, 2022 (Attachment “A”) has been prepared by staff following the historical approach of modest fee adjustments that are commensurate with the changes in service delivery costs.

EXISTING PRACTICE

The Department reviews its fees and charges and makes recommendations for adjustments annually. By adjusting fees marginally each year, the public is not subjected to large increases at any given time. In establishing fees, the Department considers

market value, inflation, collective agreement increases, partial cost recovery, minor sports discount formulas, operational costs and budget targets. Approval of the amended bylaw is typically sought several months before implementation to allow for public notice of fee changes and to provide future rental groups with accurate pricing quotations.

ANALYSIS

The Department historical process is to propose fees and charges adjustments using a 0 - 5% fee increase range. The fees and charges in Attachment "A" (effective January 1, 2023) reflect this process. The purpose of the fee range is to provide allowances that adjust for:

- Fixed costs and salary increases and
- Council approved investments through the annual budget process.

In general, Parks and Recreation sales of service fees were increased as follows:

Fee Category	Average % Increase*	Rationale
Rentals	3%	These fees have received more regular increases than the other fee categories and a lower % increase is recommended.
Admissions and Memberships	5%	These fees have only been increased once in the past 6 years (partly due to Covid-19) and an increase is warranted to account for anticipated Collective Agreement wage adjustments & inflationary cost increases.
Registered Programs	5%	These fees are determined by formula but an average increase of 5% is anticipated due to formula cost drivers related to anticipated Collective Agreement and cost of purchased goods and services adjustments.
Filming	0%	Council adopted a number of new fees and increases to existing fees on February 14, 2022; no additional fee increases are proposed for 2023.

* For 2023, the average estimated fee increase is approximately 4% across all fees; excluding filming fees.

Covid-19 has affected the Department's normal fees and charges process and planned increases for 2021 & 2022 substantively had a 0% increase. It is anticipated that 2023 will see a return to more traditional service and sales levels with the exception of aquatic and fitness services.

For reference, Attachment "B" outlines the proposed new fees and charges as contrasted against the current rates. Attachment "A" is the full schedule of proposed fees and charges for 2023.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated revenue impact of the 2023 proposed fee increases is approximately \$150K based on 2022 memberships, program fees and rentals. The fee increase does not factor in incremental impacts from the new təməsewtx^w Aquatic and Community Centre, and is primarily adjusting for inflationary and fixed cost increase based on current program and operational costs.

With respect to the təməsewtx^w Aquatic and Community Centre, staff have initiated the budget and operating modeling that will establish təməsewtx^w rental fees. This planning work will be reflected in the annual Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges Bylaw Amendment process proposed June 2023. As such, all təməsewtx^w Aquatic and Community Centre fees will be in place for before the opening of the facility and before the fees will be in use.

INTERDEPARTMENT

The Finance Department has reviewed the report and proposed fees and process.

OPTIONS

1. Council consider first, second and third readings to Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw, No. 8343, 2022 and adopt the proposed Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 8343, 2022;
2. Council give first, second and third readings to Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw, No. 8343, 2022 with changes; or
3. Provide other direction to staff.

Option #1 is recommended.

CONCLUSION

The proposed changes to the 2023 Fees and Charges Bylaw is a return to the Department practice of moderate and regular fee increases that are reflective of the changes in the cost of providing services to the community.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Proposed Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 8343, 2022

Attachment B: Examples of Core Fee Increase Examples: A Comparison Between Current and Proposed Fees

APPROVALS

This report was prepared by:

Jason Haight, Manager of Business Operations

This report was approved by:

Corrinne Garret, Senior Manager Recreation Facilities and Programs for Dean Gibson,
Director of Parks and Recreation

Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer