

Subject: Parks Master Plan**APPROVALS:****Annette Antoniak**_____
Director_____
Chief Administrative Officer**Recommended Motion:**

THAT the Parks Master Plan, dated May 2019, be approved as a guiding document to support Parks Operations and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo over the next ten years and beyond; and

THAT Administration work with staff and key stakeholders to transition from development to implementation of the Parks Master Plan.

Summary:

Parks located within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo are an important contributor to quality of life in the region, playing a role in the physical, social, economic as well as environmental health and wellbeing of the region's communities. It is critical to plan the parks system to capitalize on the region's natural environment, encourage recreation in all seasons, celebrate a culture of the outdoors, and ensure that a high quality of life can be experienced by the people of Wood Buffalo for generations to come.

Background:

The Municipality's current inventory of parks is highlighted by many impressive natural assets, open spaces and recreational amenities that are valued by residents and visitors alike. However, several years of continued development and growth has resulted in uneven levels of service across the region. As the Municipality has grown, so has the need for strategic direction to provide operation and maintenance of park facilities in a sustainable fashion. This Parks Master Plan is the culmination of a year-and-a-half long effort in creating a strategic level road map to guide planning, development, management, and investment in the Municipality's open space system over the next 10 years and beyond. The plan is grounded in an analysis of the existing parkland supply, community context and input from the public.

This strategy was developed collaboratively with input from staff, stakeholders, and the public, and represents a diversity of ideas, values and interests. Other influences on this

plan included field visits, policy context review, and identification of best practices.

Key findings from the parkland supply analysis indicate that the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo has a reasonable supply of overall parkland and a variety of park types. However, there are some locations where a lack of parkland accessibility or uneven provision of amenities warrants the acquisition or development of new parkland. Recommendations for parkland acquisition within this master plan focuses on the following areas:

- along the waterfront in both urban and rural service areas to increase public riverfront and lakefront access
- within neighborhoods deficient in parkland within a 10-minute walk of all residents
- to create more opportunities for residents and visitors to access natural and cultural landscapes and nature-based recreation

Budget/Financial Implications:

- plan development total cost \$159,296
- operational and capital costs related to implementation of the plan to be developed and supported through 2020 and beyond budget planning process

Rationale for Recommendation:

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo 2018-2021 Strategic Plan identifies the development of a longer-term fiscal strategy that incorporates sustainment of infrastructure and riverfront master planning and revitalization. The development and implementation of a Parks Master Plan is a key deliverable for both initiatives and supports the main goals of Responsible Government and Downtown Revitalization.

Strategic Priorities:

Responsible Government

Attachments:

1. Parks Master Plan

Parks Master Plan Presentation