



Governance & Services Committee

TO: Governance and Services Committee

FROM: Murray Kopp
Director – Parks Services

DATE: February 3, 2021

SUBJECT: RDCO Parks Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) 2020 Update

Purpose: The purpose of this report is to present the updated (2020) RDCO Parks Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

Executive Summary:

In 2019, RDCO staff applied to the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) program for funding to update the Regional Parks Operational Wildfire Protection Plan created in 2010 by B.A. Blackwell and Associates. The RDCO Parks Department was successful in a CRI application and the RDCO was granted \$30,000 to complete the project. Cabin Resource Management was the consultant selected to prepare the updated report.

The 2020 Updated Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) includes 35 recommendations for improvements in areas of fuel management, FireSmart initiatives, community education, park infrastructure and wildfire response.

This final report is being presented to the Committee and Regional Board as part of the conditions associated with the grant. Staff will be operationalizing the recommendations in the CWPP in the coming years.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Governance and Services Committee recommend that the Regional Board receive the RDCO Parks Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2020) as prepared by Cabin Resource Management.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Murray Kopp".

Murray Kopp, Director - Parks Services

Approved for Committee's Consideration

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Reardon".

Brian Reardon, CAO

Implications of Recommendation:

Strategic Plan: Wildfire protection and mitigation strategies support the following priorities in the RDCO Strategic Plan: Climate Change and Hazard Management

Financial: UBCM Community Resiliency Investment funding provided 100% of the funding for this project

Background:

In 2010, the RDCO developed two Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP). The first was a Regional CWPP which covered the Electoral Areas and focused on the region-wide issues. The second was a Regional Parks CWPP and focused on prioritizing fuel management treatments in RDCO Parks. Both projects were overseen by Parks Services staff. Due to the similar names of the documents (Regional CWPP vs Regional Parks CWPP), for clarity sake, the Parks document was renamed an Operational Wildfire Protection Plan (OWPP) as it was the document that Parks had the ability to make operational on the lands they had management over. The Parks Community Wildfire Protection Plan 2020 Update presented here, is an update of the 2010 RDCO Parks OWPP. In this report, the 2010 report will use the terminology OWPP and all references to the 2020 report will refer to CWPP.

The 2010 OWPP outlined fuel management activities to treat high risk fuel areas within RDCO parks. Since the release of the 2010 version, many of the fuel management activities have been completed. Additionally, since that time, fuel types have changed, fuel loading has increased, new park acquisitions have resulted in the increase of Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), forest health issues have arisen and numerous severe wildfire seasons have occurred. As well, the population of the Central Okanagan has grown and residents are more aware of wildfire risks. For these reasons, an update to the 2010 OWPP was deemed necessary.

The Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) program is a provincial program intended to reduce the risk and impact of wildfire to communities in BC through community funding, supports and priority fuel management activities. In 2019, Parks applied to the CRI program and were approved for 100% funding in the amount of \$30,000.00 to complete the update to the 2010 OWPP. Cabin Resource Management was selected to prepare the report.

The final report, RDCO Parks Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2020) provides 35 recommendations to increase public safety and decrease community vulnerability. These recommendations focus on improvements in areas such as fuel management, FireSmart initiatives, community education, park infrastructure and wildfire response. The report provides a priority ranking for fuel treatments in and around RDCO parks and includes a GIS based web map for use by staff when planning future treatments. The RDCO Parks CWPP (2020) is integral to future operational treatment funding applications from the CRI program.

Alternative Recommendation:

None recommended.

Attachment(s):

- RDCO Parks Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Final Report (2020)