



Regional Board Report

Request for Decision

Approved for Board Consideration

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Reardon".

Brian Reardon, CAO

To: Regional Board

From: Murray Kopp, Director – Parks Services

Date: June 27, 2022

Subject: 2022 Strategic Priorities Fund Application – RDCO Community Connections through Regional Parks and Greenways

Voting Entitlement: *All Directors – Unweighted Corporate Vote – Simple Majority (LGA s.208)*

Purpose: To seek authorization from the Regional Board to submit a \$3.8M application to UBCM through the Strategic Priorities Fund Federal Gas Tax Program for a “Community Connections through Regional Parks and Greenways” capital investment initiative.

Executive Summary:

The Regional District has 30 regional parks covering 2,200 hectares of land. Over the course of the pandemic, our parks were and continue to be in high demand giving members of the community a space to get outdoors, stay active, and connect with others in a safe manner. This, in turn, has shown a 25% increase from our park counts during 2019 - 2020 and an additional 4% increase in park counts from 2020 - 2021.

Regional parks significantly contribute to our region as a highly valued location to live, work and play while attracting economic opportunities and supporting a healthy community. The proposed \$3.8 Million “Community Connections through Regional Parks and Greenways” initiative seeks to improve our regions’ connection to nature and ensure our assets are open, safe, and properly maintained while meeting the demands of a rapidly growing community.

Recommendation(s):

THAT the Regional Board supports the Regional District of Central Okanagan UBCM Strategic Priority Fund Grant application submission seeking a \$3.8 million grant to complete the “Community Connections through Regional Parks and Greenways” capital investment project.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Murray Kopp".

Murray Kopp
Director – Parks Services

Prepared by: Taylor Moore, Administrative Assistant for Parks Services

Attachment(s): N/A

Strategic Plan Alignment:

Priorities: Sustainable Communities, Economic Development

Values: Good Governance, Collaboration

Background:

In the past nearly 10 years the Regional District has been on an aggressive track to acquire new regional parkland for the Central Okanagan. Over this time the regional park system has doubled in size, we have gone from 1056 hectares to 2,220 hectares of park land area. The largest of these new acquisitions include Black Mountain / sntsk'il'ntən Regional Park at 655 hectares and Johns Family Nature Conservancy Regional Park at 406 hectares.

Currently, Black Mountain / sntsk'il'ntən Regional Park is not fully open to the public, a management plan was completed and approved by the Regional Board in 2016 which provides the road map to manage and develop the park with respect of the environment and the community. Also, the Regional District completed management plans for Woodhaven and Goats Peak in 2016/17 and Johns Family in 2014, with all three parks having some level of public access available.

It is the goal of Parks Services and the Regional District to open these new parks as soon as practically possible respecting the RDCO's 5 Year Financial Plan, resource availability, and ensuring existing assets are renewed and meeting service levels. One of the options that is available to Parks Services is to see out external funding sources to assist with the development of those Regional Parks that are currently not open to the public. Currently the Strategic Priorities Fund which is a component of the Federal Community Works Fund Gas Tax program is accepting applications for projects that are "Regional" in nature which have an overall impact to the residents within the Region.

Regional Parks provide many opportunities and benefits for residents and visitors to the Central Okanagan. They provide protection of natural spaces that assist to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, provide passive recreation opportunities that are good for the mind and body and assist to reduce health care costs, provide opportunities for residents to learn and understand the importance of natural areas and increasing our connection to nature, provide ecological services to clean our air and water, they provide habitat for species which benefits everyone, and they make our region more attractive and desirable to live in.

The *Community Connections through Regional Parks and Greenways* project provides the opportunities for regional residents to come together and recreate, congregate, educate, and protect nature that is of value to all residents. This project will help to deliver and improve these opportunities through the development and construction of trails, trailhead parking areas, park amenities, and connections to community. This project will include both new and renewed infrastructure, ensuring that the on-going need for park spaces and their amenities are preserved and managed in a respectful manner to the environment and public funding. These projects will seek out efficient and technologically advanced solutions to meet the demands of the 21 century and the on-going concerns of global climate change.

Parks Services is seeking to make application for approximately \$3.8 Million in funding from the Strategic Priorities Fund to fund the following new and asset renewal capital projects:

| 2022-2023 RDCO Regional Park SPF Capital Funding Application Request | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|------------------------------|
| Regional Park | Item # | Item | Cost | Brief Description | Capital Type |
| Johns Family Nature Conservancy | 5 | Detailed Design (External) | \$500.00 | - Public Access Control Gate | New Capital |
| | | Install/Construct | \$3,200.00 | | |
| | 9 | Detailed Design (External) | \$6,000.00 | - Lebanon Creek Crossing | Asset Renewal |
| | | Install/Construct | \$30,000.00 | | |
| | 11 | Detailed Design (External) | \$2,500.00 | - Trail Improvements - Signage | Asset Renewal |
| | | Signage | \$3,750.00 | | |
| | | Install/Construct | \$15,000.00 | | |
| | 12 | Detailed Design (External) | \$9,500.00 | - Trail and Creek Crossing - Signage | New Capital |
| | | Signage | \$10,000.00 | | |
| | | Install/Construct | \$55,000.00 | | |
| | 13 | Detailed Design (External) | \$4,000.00 | - Wetland Protection - Wetland Education | New Capital |
| | | Signage | \$3,500.00 | | |
| | | Install/Construct | \$3,500.00 | | |
| | 14 | Detailed Design (External) | \$8,500.00 | - Trail/Road Improvements - Wayfinding/Interpretive Signage - Picnic Area Development | Asset Renewal New Capital |
| | | Signage | \$6,000.00 | | |
| | | Install/Construct | \$37,500.00 | | |
| | 15 | Detailed Design (External) | \$1,000.00 | - Wetland Protection - Wetland Education | New Capital |
| | | Signage | \$1,500.00 | | |
| | | Install/Construct | \$1,500.00 | | |
| 16 | Detailed Design (External) | \$3,500.00 | - Washroom Facilities - Pollution Control | New Capital | |
| | Install/Construct | \$20,000.00 | | | |
| 17 | Demolish | \$15,000.00 | - Boardwalk Removal | Asset Mgmt. | |
| 18 | Detailed Design (External) | \$10,000.00 | - Trail Connection to Ok. Mtn. Prov. Park Trails - Wayfinding/Interpretive Signage | New Capital | |
| | Signage | \$10,000.00 | | | |
| | Install/Construct | \$80,000.00 | | | |
| 19 | Decommission | \$53,000.00 | - Restoration of Natural Systems, Decommission Old Roads | Asset Mgmt. | |
| | | | \$393,950.00 | | |

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|-----------------------------------|--------|----------------------------|---------------------|---|---------------|
| Black Mountain / sntsk'il'ntən | 5.1.1 | Detailed Design (External) | \$30,000.00 | - Complete main trails connecting through park as identified in short -term | New Capital |
| | | Install/Construct | \$270,000.00 | | |
| | 5.1.2 | Signage | \$20,000.00 | - Short-term Wayfinding/Interpretation signage | New Capital |
| | 5.1.3 | Design | \$20,000.00 | - Complete all aspects of ecological restoration, to begin processes of re-establishment of native species | New Capital |
| | | Ecological Restoration | \$180,000.00 | | |
| | 5.2.3 | Detailed Design (External) | \$35,400.00 | - Complete Trailhead and Parking area at Swainson Road for access to park | New Capital |
| | | Install/Construct | \$318,600.00 | | |
| | 5.2.10 | Signage | \$20,000.00 | - Interpretation Signage for Lookouts | New Capital |
| | | | \$894,000.00 | | |
| Antlers Saddle Trail | 1 | Detailed Design (External) | \$25,000.00 | - Design and construct inter-regional trail connection on existing informal trail, includes First Nations partnership | New Capital |
| | 2-9 | Install/Construct | \$172,000.00 | | |
| | | | | \$197,000.00 | |
| Hardy Falls | 1 | Detailed Design (External) | \$20,000.00 | - Trail Reconstruction Post Flooding Event - Bridge Reconstruction and Stabilization Post Flooding Event | Asset Renewal |
| | 2 | Install/Construct | \$290,000.00 | | |
| | | | \$310,000.00 | | |
| Glen Canyon | 1 | Detailed Design (External) | \$15,000.00 | -Trail, Parking, and Boardwalk Reconstruction Post Flooding Event | Asset Renewal |
| | 2 | Install/Construct | \$100,000.00 | | |
| | 3 | Detailed Design (External) | \$15,000.00 | - Acorn Bridge Renewal Project | Asset Renewal |
| | 4 | Install/Construct | \$75,000.00 | | |
| | | | | \$205,000.00 | |
| Mill Creek | 1 | Detailed Design (External) | \$20,000.00 | - Bridge, parking area, and trail replacement post flooding | Asset Renewal |
| | 2 | Install/Construct | \$275,000.00 | | |
| | | | | \$295,000.00 | |

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|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|-----------------------|---|---------------|
| Mission Creek Greenway | 1 | Detailed Design (External) | \$20,000.00 | - 3 Bridges for Asset Renewal | Asset Renewal |
| | 2 | Install/Construct | \$266,000.00 | | |
| | | | \$286,000.00 | | |
| Building Stabilization and Repurpose | 1 | Detailed Design (External) | \$35,000.00 | - Building Asset Stabilization and Repurpose - Gellatly Nut Farm Historic House Stabilization - Mission Creek Cabin #2 Repurpose for Children's Education - Woodhaven Cabin Repurpose for Children's Education | Asset Renewal |
| | 2 | Install/Construct | \$475,000.00 | | |
| | | | \$510,000.00 | | |
| Traders Cove | 1 | Detailed Design (External) | \$15,000.00 | - Park and Trail Redevelopment | Asset Renewal |
| | 2 | Install/Construct | \$125,000.00 | | |
| | | | \$140,000.00 | | |
| Stephens Coyote | 1 | Detailed Design (External) | \$20,000.00 | - Park Development (Trails, Parking Area, Trailhead) | New Capital |
| | 2 | Install/Construct | \$200,000.00 | | |
| | | | \$220,000.00 | | |
| Mission Creek Greenway | 1 | Detailed Design (External) | \$10,000.00 | - Greenway Upgrades from Field Road to KLO Creek Bridge | Asset Renewal |
| | 2 | Install/Construct | \$213,000.00 | | |
| | | | \$223,000.00 | | |
| Glen Canyon | 1 | Detailed Design | \$15,000.00 | - Upper Glen Canyon Trail Upgrades | Asset Renewal |
| | 2 | Install/Construct | \$110,000.00 | | |
| | | | \$125,000.00 | | |
| Total SPF Funding Request | | | \$3,798,950.00 | | |

As part of the application process, it is requested that the applicant seeks out approval from the Regional Board in order to submit an application on behalf of the Regional District. Therefore, staff request from the Regional Board, support to submit an application to UBCM for Strategic Priorities Funding support to complete the \$3.8 million “*Community Connections through Regional Parks and Greenways*” project.

Considerations:

Organizational/External:

The identified project and grant submission supports the following strategic priorities; provide proactive and responsive governance; ensure asset, service, and financial sustainability; nurture responsible growth and development; protect and promote our environment and lifestyle; and champion communications and engagement

Financial:

Successful receipt of Federal Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Funds will assist with maintaining sufficient capital reserves and aiding future 5 Year Financial Plans.

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Local governments are eligible to apply for Federal Gas Tax Strategic Priority Funds through UBCM for both new capital and asset replacement projects.

Considerations not applicable:

- Alternate Recommendation
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