

NO: R074

COUNCIL DATE: April 22, 2024

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **April 15, 2024**

FROM: **General Manager, Engineering
General Manager, Parks, Recreation &
Culture**

FILE: **1721-011/11**

SUBJECT: **Update on the Bear Creek Park Improvements**

RECOMMENDATION

The Engineering and Parks, Recreation & Culture Departments recommend that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Endorse the next steps for improvements to Bear Creek Park as described in this report.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement for next steps of improvements to Bear Creek Park.

BACKGROUND

On April 17, 2023, Council approved Corporate Report No. R053; 2023 (attached as Appendix "I") for the City to develop a finalized list of potential improvements to Bear Creek Park. To date, as part of the 84 Avenue project, the City has invested \$2.7 million in environmental and park improvements, including parking, walking trails, landfill remediation, and removal of invasive plants in riparian areas. The City has an estimated \$836,000 in its remaining budget towards further park improvements and staff have developed a finalized list of potential park improvements for this remaining funding.

DISCUSSION

The table below summarizes the Bear Creek Park improvements developed by staff, which are also illustrated in Appendix "II". These proposed improvements were considered in detail with a sub-committee to the Environment and Climate Change Committee (the "ECCC"). The feedback received was to focus the funding available to protect the natural environment and maximize the ecological value of Bear Creek Park, and as a result, the potential improvements were prioritized as ranked in the table below.

The final prioritized list was endorsed by ECCC on November 15, 2023, as well as the Parks, Recreation & Sport Tourism Committee (the "PRSTC") on February 7, 2024.

Item #	Potential Improvements	Estimated Cost	Supported by ECCC and PRSTC	Ranking Priority
1	Constructed Wetland/Rearing Pond	\$836,000	Yes	1
2	Riparian Enhancements/Natural Restoration	\$270,000	Yes	2
3	Wildlife Exclusion Fencing	\$300,000	Yes	3
4	Bear Creek Bridge Public Art	\$250,000	No	
5	Park Covered Seating/Picnic Benches	\$100,000	No	
6	Community Garden	\$250,000	No	
7	Northern Loop Boardwalk	\$625,000	No	
8	Eastern Gravel Trail	\$250,000	No	
9	Eastern Pathway Extension (south side	\$450,000	No	
10	Southern Paved Pathway Loop (with culverts)	\$450,000	No	
11	Southern gravel trail extension	\$250,000	No	
	Total Cost (of all items listed above)	\$4,031,000		
	Available Budget	\$836,000		

Given the funding amount available for the Bear Creek Park Improvements, the creation of a wetland to serve as a rearing facility for juvenile fish passing along King Creek is likely the only project to be delivered.

Sidewalk and Trail Improvements

Over the past year, staff have received inquiries from both the public and Council regarding the need for safe pedestrian and cycling connections along both sides of 84 Avenue between King Creek and 140 Street, as generally illustrated in Appendix “II” (Items 8 and 9 in the above table).

To address the pedestrian and cycling safety concerns, staff will construct a concrete sidewalk along the south side and a gravel trail along the north side of 84 Avenue. The gravel trail on the north side is intended to be designed and constructed as close to the existing road edge as practical to minimize any impacts to the adjacent forested edge. The trail will improve connections with existing park paths in Bear Creek Park for park visitors.

Project Schedule and Next Steps

Wetland and Rearing Pond

As the construction of the wetland and rearing pond is located within sensitive environmental habitat along King Creek, Provincial and Federal regulatory agencies approval is necessary. Furthermore, the proposed wetland is located within BC Hydro’s right-of-way and will require their approval before the work may proceed to construction.

Subject to Council's approval of this report, staff envision the following next steps.

Task	Schedule
Council Approval of this Corporate Report	April 22, 2024
Wetland/Rearing Pond Preliminary Design	April - June 2024
Environmental Regulatory Application Submission	July 2024 - Spring 2025
BC Hydro Approval	July 2024 - Spring 2025
Public Engagement and Presentations to ECCC and PRSTC (<i>subject to receiving regulatory approvals</i>)	Spring 2025
Construction Contract Award (<i>subject to Council approval</i>)	Late Spring 2025
Construction	Summer - Fall 2025

The sidewalk and trail improvements are scheduled to commence later this Spring and will be completed by the end of 2024.

FUNDING

Funding for the wetland and rearing pond is available within the approved 84 Avenue project budget. Funding for the sidewalk and gravel trail is available within the approved 2023 Parks, Recreation & Culture and 2024 Transportation Budget. Funding to support future Public Art enhancements is available through the Civic Public Art stream.

CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion in this report, it is recommended that Council endorse the next steps for improvements to Bear Creek Park.

Scott Neuman, P.Eng.
General Manager,
Engineering

Laurie Cavan
General Manager
Parks, Recreation & Culture

VJ/NA/cc

Appendix "I" – Corporate Report No. R053; 2023
Appendix "II" – Potential Bear Creek Park Improvements

NO: *R053*

COUNCIL DATE: *April 17, 2023*

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **April 13, 2023**

FROM: **General Manager, Engineering
General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture**

FILE: **6120-01**

SUBJECT: **Bear Creek Park Improvements**

RECOMMENDATION

The Engineering and Parks, Recreation & Culture Departments recommend that Council:

1. Receive this report for information;
2. Endorse the next steps for improvements to Bear Creek Park, as discussed in this report; and
3. Forward a copy of this report to the Environment and Climate Change Committee for their information.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement for next steps of improvements to Bear Creek Park, including working with the Environment and Climate Change Committee ("ECCC") on identifying and prioritizing park improvements within the allocated funding.

BACKGROUND

On March 8, 2021, Council authorized staff to commence with engineering services for the field investigation, preliminary design and public engagement of 84 Avenue between King George Boulevard and 140 Street. As part of the project, the Engineering and Parks, Recreation & Culture Departments collaborated on potential park amenity improvements that could be delivered in conjunction with the 84 Avenue project. Park improvements envisioned by staff include:

- i. Environmental wetland;
- ii. Invasive species removal and replanting;
- iii. Parking expansion;
- iv. Walking trails and public seating
- v. Dog off-leash areas; and
- vi. Public art.

These originally envisioned park improvements are shown in the attached Appendix "I".

To date, as part of the 84 Avenue project, the City has invested \$2.7 million in environmental and park improvements, including parking, walking trails landfill remediation, and removal of invasive plants in riparian areas. The City has an estimated \$836,000 in remaining budget towards further park improvements, with approximately \$250,000 of this budget allocated towards extending the southern walking trail to the Senior Living Centre at 8233 – 140 Street. Staff are developing a finalized list of potential park improvements for the remaining funding.

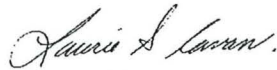
With the establishment of the ECCC in January 2023, as well as the receipt of ongoing feedback from the public, there is an opportunity for staff to utilize the ECCC to assist in developing the finalized list of potential improvements to Bear Creek Park, within the remaining funding.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, staff will develop a finalized list of park improvements, in conjunction with the ECCC, and implement the improvements to Bear Creek Park in Summer 2023.



Scott Neuman, P.Eng.
General Manager,
Engineering



Laurie Cavan
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation & Culture

JC/cc

Appendix "I" – Map of Proposed Bear Creek Park Improvements

Note: Appendix available upon request

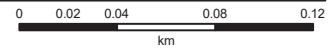
BEAR CREEK PARK IMPROVEMENTS

APPENDIX "II"



Scale: 1:2,000

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Map created on: 2023-07-18