

NO: **R229**

COUNCIL DATE: **December 12, 2011**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **December 5, 2012**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture** FILE: **1855-01**

SUBJECT: **Community Recreation Program - Application for Funding for the Serpentine Greenway in Joe Brown Park**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. receive this report as information; and
2. approve an application to the Province's Community Recreation Program (the "Program") for funding in the amount of \$400,000 for the construction of the Serpentine Greenway in Joe Brown Park.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide information about an opportunity for capital funding through the "Community Recreation Program" (the "Program") that is administered by the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and to seek Council approval to submit an application under this Program for funding for the construction of the *Serpentine Greenway in Joe Brown Park*.

DISCUSSION:

Description of the Program:

The objective of the Program is to assist in funding capital projects that make communities healthier and more active places in which to live. Specifically, projects will be selected based on the following criteria:

- the extent to which the community is advancing the principle of being more physically active; and
- providing community health benefits.

The Program supports the "Families First" and the "BC Jobs" priorities of the Province. By increasing the availability of recreational spaces, by providing opportunities for people of all ages to participate in physical activity and by improving community infrastructure, the Program supports the development of healthy and active communities that attract families and economic activity.

The Program provides capital funding of up to 80% of the cost of eligible projects. The Program criteria require Council approval of the project that is submitted for funding under the Program. The Program has no defined funding cap and a key objective is to maximize funding for as many communities as possible. Applicants have been advised in submitting applications to consider provincial contribution limits identified in past provincial programs (up to \$400,000). Any project receiving funding must be fully completed by March 31, 2015.

Proposed Project:

The Serpentine Greenway through Joe Brown Park is an important piece of the Trans-Canada Trail and the City's Greenway system. The Serpentine Greenway links Newton and Whalley from Mud Bay Park to the Wildflower Greenway in City Centre and also connects with other City-wide Greenways. Currently there is a section of the Serpentine Greenway within Joe Brown Park that has not yet been constructed. Joe Brown Park is a 27 hectare (67 acre) park with mature forests and sweeping views of Mud Bay and the Salish Sea beyond. A conceptual plan for Joe Brown Park was adopted by Council in 2009 that includes a network of multi-use trails including the Greenway that is the subject of this report.

Required Funding:

The budget for this project is \$600,000. The City's contribution of \$200,000 would be funded in the 2012 Parks Capital Budget. If the application is successful the Greenway would be constructed during 2012 with landscaping in late 2012 or early 2013.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council approve an application to the Province's Community Recreation Program (the "Program") for funding in the amount of \$400,000 for the construction of the Serpentine Greenway in Joe Brown Park as generally described in this report.

Laurie Cavan
General Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture

c.c.: General Manager, Finance & Technology