



Corporate NO: R194

Report COUNCIL DATE: September 1, 2000

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council **DATE: August 31, 2000**

FROM: General Manager, Engineering **FILE: 0541-218/219**

SUBJECT: Lease of the City Property at 5288 - 168 Street (Mound Farm)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the expansion of the lease of the City land at 5288 - 168 Street (Mound Farm) from 100 acres to 120 acres.

BACKGROUND

At the March 13, 2000 Regular Council meeting, Council considered a report (Item No. R053) that recommended a new lease of the 120 acre farmlands at 5288 - 168 Street. Council approved the lease of a 100 acre portion of the farmlands and requested that staff look at the possibility of leasing the other 20 acres for the purpose of growing a corn maze.

1. The Property and Land Uses

The City property, known as the Mound Farm and Mound Park, has a total site area of 161 acres. The Mound Farm is comprised of 120 acre farmlands with a further 8 acre portion of unfarmed lands. The Mound Park (5202 - 168 Street) has a site area of 33 acres, and has been dedicated as park. There are two heritage houses located on Mound Park that continue to be rented pending the future development of the park.

2. Plan Designations and Zoning

The subject property is designated Agricultural in the Official Community Plan and zoned A-1 (General Agricultural).

DISCUSSION

Staff has been negotiating with the company that applied to lease the lands for the proposed corn maze. The company has advised the City that its application was dependent upon securing a view corridor from the top of the Mound. However, the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department has advised that a bio-physical assessment of the Mound shows the Mound as a very sensitive area. It therefore objects to public access to the Mound until major works are undertaken to protect the most sensitive areas and prevent accidents. As well, associated with the safety concerns are liability issues that could arise from public use of the Mound. The company has subsequently volunteered that its application for the lease be withdrawn. Staff have contacted the tenants of the 100 acre portion and they have indicated an interest in leasing the additional 20 acres. This lease could be terminated at the City's discretion, with one year's notice, should another corn maze proponent express an interest in this site once the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department have completed the works necessary for public safety and to protect the most sensitive areas.

CONCLUSION

The prospective tenant for the lease of the 20 acre portion of the City farmlands at 5288 - 168 Street (Mound Farm) has asked that his application to lease the lands be withdrawn. The tenants of the 100 acre portion of the farmlands have indicated a willingness to have their leased area extended by the additional 20 acres. It is therefore recommended that Council approve the expansion of the existing 100 acre leased area of the City farmlands at 5288 - 168 Street (Mound Farm) by an additional 20 acres.

Jorgen Johansen, P.Eng.

General Manager, Engineering

AW/mpr

Appendices

- I. Location Map
- II. Site Map
- III. Aerial Photograph