



Corporate *NO: R114*

Report *COUNCIL DATE: June 10, 2002*

REGULAR			
TO:	Mayor & Council	DATE:	June 4, 2002
FROM:	General Manager of Parks, Recreation and Culture	FILE:	0290-01
SUBJECT:	Award to Outstanding Cities for Improving Public Spaces for Recreation and Promoting Physical Activity in the Americas		

RECOMMENDATION

That this report be received as information.

BACKGROUND

In celebration of World Health Day 2002: "Move for Health", the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) co-sponsored a new award to recognize the outstanding cities in the Region of the Americas for improving public spaces for recreation and promoting physical activity. One hundred and forty-two cities provided submissions for recognition in either the Latin American and Caribbean category, or the United States and Canada category.

The City of Surrey was the winner in the United States and Canada category, with Eugene Oregon given a Special Recognition award. In the Latin American and Caribbean category, the winner was Loja, Ecuador with Surco/Lima, Peru second, and Balcarce, Argentina third. Three additional cities received Special Recognition Awards.

DISCUSSION

The City of Surrey was cited for an "exceptionally well documented entry" that emphasized the "protection of open areas for recreation as well as diverse programs for promoting physical activity."

The Selection Committee looked at a number of criteria including:

- planning for recreation and open spaces
- acquiring and protecting open spaces
- greenways, bikeway, and linear corridors
- safe pedestrian sidewalks
- access for persons with a disability
- amount of open space
- indoor facilities for recreation
- events and celebrations in the community
- types and range of recreation programs
- marketing and promotion of physical activity

The submission included a brief summary of several planning documents including the Greenways Plan, Bikeways Plan, Natural Areas Management Strategy and Surrey Blueways. The amount of open space, total length of trails and bikeways, descriptions of indoor facilities, and marketing tools were also provided.

A key element leading to Surrey being named the Outstanding City was the Active City Initiative. This proactive initiative to promote active lifestyles is described in the attached excerpt from the award submission. It identifies the strong support and leadership by Council to promoting physical activity, and outlines the five components of the initiative, namely:

- Increasing Awareness
- Changing Physical Activity Behaviour
- Supportive Environments
- Partnerships
- Employee Wellness

The Active City Initiative was recognized a year ago by the British Columbia Medical Association “Excellence in Health Promotion Award”. The Active City Initiative has led to significant increases in the number of users of indoor facilities, trails and bikeways, and in the number of people walking for health.

Don Hunter, General
Manager of Parks, Recreation
and Culture

Attach.

