

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE
COMMISSION **DATE:** 2022 December 16

FROM: GENERAL MANAGER PARKS,
RECREATION & CULTURE **FILE:** 54000-30

SUBJECT: SWANGARD STADIUM FEASIBILITY STUDY

PURPOSE: To inform the Commission of the Swangard Stadium Feasibility Study and the community engagement activities to be undertaken.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Commission receive this report for information.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Located in Central Park, Swangard Stadium (“Swangard”) officially opened in 1969 and has hosted many functions over the years, including community, cultural and sporting events. Recently, a number of community organizations, both private and non-profit, have approached the City interested in forming some kind of partnership arrangement or “anchor tenancy” at Swangard. Before exploring any of these opportunities further, staff felt it would be prudent to engage the consultant firm of Cornerstone Planning Group (“the consultants”) to conduct a review of Swangard Stadium to explore potential opportunities and options over the next 20 years, with the key priority of preserving this venue as a public-use space (currently zoned P3 Park and Public Use District). Overall, the study is intended to provide a big picture road map for potential short-, medium- and long-term projects that guide re-investment in the facility. The next step in the review is to conduct community engagement to further understand the usage of Swangard and the role it plays as an important community asset.

2.0 POLICY SECTION

The study and its full scope correspond with the goals and values in the *Corporate Strategic Plan (2017)*, and align with the City of Burnaby’s purpose “to create the city that we all want to live in and be in.”

3.0 BACKGROUND

Located in Central Park, Swangard Stadium officially opened in 1969 and has served as a host facility for many functions over the years, including community, cultural and sporting events. The stadium is a track-and-field destination for local high schools and elementary schools and for high-level soccer teams that value its natural grass turf. As a securable venue with washroom facilities, food and liquor concessions and a covered area for inclement weather, the stadium has been home to various annual large cultural and community events over the years.

The scope of Swangard Stadium study includes:

- Stage 1: Key Findings & Consultation: including background research, benchmark analysis, environmental scan, facility condition and current state assessment. This stage also includes community engagement
- Stage 2: Visioning & options scoping
- Stage 3: Draft Strategy report & feedback
- Stage 4: Final Report

Over the past two months, Cornerstone has been working to complete Stage 1: Key Findings and Consultation.

4.0 DISCUSSION

As part of the engagement strategy to seek input from diverse perspectives, multiple groups will be consulted as part of the study ([Attachment #1](#)).

As a next step of Stage 1, organizations that have regularly contracted the use of Swangard Stadium historically will be invited to complete an online survey to gain a better understanding of their usage, programming needs and changes, frequency, valued amenities as well as challenges at the Stadium ([Attachment #2](#)).

In conjunction with the background research and stakeholder consultation interviews, the survey feedback is anticipated to yield greater insights for this assessment. The resulting key findings will be reported back to Council. Figure 1 below shows a proposed timeline with four milestones to engage Council and Commission throughout the study.



Figure 1 – Proposed Timeline for Study

To: *Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission*
From: *General Manager - Parks, Recreation & Culture*
Re: *Swangard Stadium Feasibility Study*
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4.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Funding for this project is covered through the PRC operating budget.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission receive this report for information.



Mary Morrison-Clark
GENERAL MANAGER PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE

Attachments (2)

DP:tc:dc

Swangard Stadium Feasibility Study

cc: Chief Administrative Officer
Deputy CAO/CFO