

TO: MAYOR & COUNCILLORS
FROM: DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE
SUBJECT: **PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE MASTER PLAN**
PURPOSE: To inform Council of the upcoming Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan project.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report titled “Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan” dated November 18, 2024, be received for information.

1.0 POLICY SECTION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan (the “Master Plan”) aligns with the following City plans and policies: Burnaby Strategic Plan (2017), Park Prioritization Framework (2023), Benefits Based Approach (2024), Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2016) and Social Sustainability Strategy (2011), and Burnaby Parks and Recreation Master Plan (1984).

2.0 BACKGROUND

The City of Burnaby’s Parks, Recreation, and Culture (PRC) department brings the community together through an impressive network of spaces and experiences. From bustling community and activity centres, beloved parks, and scenic golf courses to ice skating arenas, trails, and dog-friendly spaces, PRC facilities and programs are part of Burnaby’s daily heartbeat. The department also cultivates cultural enrichment with cherished attractions like the Burnaby Art Gallery, museum, and arts centre, alongside diverse events and programs that animate our city throughout the year. PRC programs and services foster a sense of belonging and serves as the foundation of community life, shaping Burnaby into a place people are proud to call home.

A Parks, Recreation, and Culture Master Plan is essential to guide Burnaby’s growth and Council’s vision for the future in a way that aligns with community needs and demographic shifts. It provides a framework for equitable access to quality parks, facilities, and cultural experiences across all neighbourhoods, ensuring that every resident can benefit, regardless of background or ability. By prioritizing strategic investments, the Master Plan ensures taxpayer funds are allocated effectively, focusing on areas that enhance residents’ quality of life. It also supports Burnaby’s environmental goals by incorporating sustainable practices that protect green spaces and biodiversity while building climate resilience. Ultimately, this Master Plan fosters a healthier, more

vibrant community by expanding programs and facilities that support active lifestyles, social connections, and cultural enrichment.

The City has grown immensely in the decades since the original Master Plan was created in 1984. A new framework is needed to align Council priorities and decision-making for the delivery of core services, planning new facilities and infrastructure, and meeting the community’s current and evolving needs. The Master Plan will play a crucial role in leading PRC and assisting Council in determining annual priorities that respond to growth, demographics, and trends, as well as changing expectations from Burnaby residents. It builds on the work currently underway with the Official Community Plan (OCP), helping ensure alignment across our strategic goals for growth, sustainability, and community well-being. Burnaby is situated in a region where competition for residents and development is strong. The Master Plan will serve as a vision for enhancing Burnaby’s appeal, fostering a high quality of life, accessibility, and a healthy lifestyle, thus positioning Burnaby as a community of choice.

3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

PRC amenities are vital to Burnaby’s quality of life, making the city both liveable and welcoming to families and people from all backgrounds. Through these spaces, residents of all ages find connections, recreation, and well-being, creating a vibrant and inclusive community. The development of the PRC Master Plan is a critical step in identifying that vision and aligning the city moving forward. It will provide regular opportunities for Council, public and staff input, ensuring community needs are well understood and the city is on track to meet them.

As Burnaby welcomes new residents and experiences increased density, this Master Plan will be a blueprint to help PRC’s infrastructure and services evolve sustainably, ensuring that everyone can enjoy high-quality parks, recreational spaces, and cultural experiences for generations to come.

While this project was planned to be initiated in late 2025, staff have secured grant funding from the Provincial Local Government Housing Initiative to expedite the delivery of this important work starting in late 2024. This opportunity will build on the efforts underway through the OCP update, helping to tell the story of PRC and ensuring facilities and programs continue to meet the needs of our dynamic community.

Staff are preparing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Consulting Services to retain a professional team to assist in the development of the Master Plan beginning in January 2025. It is anticipated the process will take 18-24 months to complete. The Consultant will be instrumental in facilitating internal and external engagement and producing the key project deliverables. More details regarding the plan's objectives, timelines, and engagement process, along with specific project milestones, will be outlined in a future report to Council early in the new year.

The last Parks and Recreation Master Plan was completed over 40 years ago. Now, with recent provincial housing legislation, there is an opportunity to plan for Burnaby’s

next phase with a strong and cohesive vision. This Master Plan will ensure PRC can continue delivering the outstanding facilities and experiences that make Burnaby a vibrant, liveable, and connected community.

4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community and staff engagement will play a vital role in shaping the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Master Plan. To facilitate this, staff are preparing a Communications and Engagement Plan, which will be included in a follow-up report to Council anticipated in early 2025.

The engagement format will be designed to mirror the successful frameworks of the ongoing OCP and Urban Forest Strategy initiatives, incorporating various methods such as open houses, surveys, and workshops. In addition, staff will seek qualified public engagement specialists through the upcoming RFP to ensure the engagement process is approached with a focus on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA), incorporating Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) to assess and address the varied needs and experiences of diverse groups in our community.

PRC Committee and Council can expect to participate in regular workshops throughout the anticipated two-year project timeline, providing opportunities to stay informed and engaged as the Master Plan develops.

5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Funding for the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Master Planning includes \$300,000 from the Province through the Local Government Housing Initiative which is expected to cover a significant portion of the estimated total project cost of \$500,000. This grant funding is anticipated to cover all project costs for 2025 as the grant funding must be utilized by December 31, 2025. Additional funding for 2026 will be requested through One-time Funding Requests to support project completion. Developing this Plan is crucial for establishing long-term service levels and guiding significant capital and operating investments for the city, which will be developed in greater detail through the development of the Master Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen Gonzalez, Deputy General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture

REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

This report was prepared by John Musil, Manager, PRC Policy Planning; and Andre Isakov, Director PRC Planning.