



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: CS-BRD-037

From: Regional Parks Committee

Date: February 17, 2021

Subject: Function 200 Regional Parks Draft 2021 Budget

The following recommendations from the December 10, 2020 Regional Parks Committee meeting are being presented to the Regional Board for its consideration:

RECOMMENDATION #1: *[Corporate Unweighted]*

That the Regional Board authorize that park maintenance services remain a service that is conducted by Peace River Regional District in-house staff.

RECOMMENDATION #2: *[Corporate Weighted]*

That the Regional Board authorize that the Peace River Regional District continues with the improvements at Blackfoot Regional Park in 2021 at a cost of \$142,500 (\$52,500 in minor capital and \$90,000 in capital for campsite Area C approved in 2020), and that these expenses be added to the 2021 budget.

RECOMMENDATION #3: *[Corporate Unweighted]*

That the Regional Board authorize that Montney Centennial Park be transitioned from an overnight campground to a day-use only park, for a three year pilot project starting in 2021 and ending December 31, 2023, and that capital improvements be approved on an annual basis.

RECOMMENDATION #4: *[Corporate Unweighted]*

That the Regional Board approve, in principle, the Montney Centennial Park Development Plan, dated July 13, 2020, which provides recommended updates and improvements for the park over the next five years.

RECOMMENDATION #5: *[Corporate Weighted]*

That the Regional Board approve a 2021 Recreational Trails Grant, in the amount of \$50,775, to be issued to Bear Mountain Nordic Ski Association to assist with trail improvements; and further,

That a financial commitment of \$50,775 be included as part of the 2021 annual budget amount for General Grants-in-Aid in Function 200 – Regional Parks.

RECOMMENDATION #6: *[Corporate Weighted]*

That the Regional Board authorize a 2021 Recreational Trails Grant, in the amount of \$22,500, to be issued to Northland Trailblazers Snowmobile Club to assist with Stewart Lake Trail maintenance and bridge repair; and further,

That a financial commitment of \$22,500 be included as part of the 2021 annual budget amount for General Grants-in-Aid in Function 200 – Regional Parks.

RECOMMENDATION #7: [Corporate Weighted]

That the Regional Board authorize that \$10,000 for the archaeological desktop assessment for Minaker River Regional Park be carried forward to 2021, but not be completed until the Peace River Regional District fully determines with the Province of BC the future ownership and management of the park.

RECOMMENDATION #8: [Corporate Weighted]

That the 2021 draft budget for Function 200 – Regional Parks be amended by decreased by \$35,000 under legal fees, and the amended 2021 draft budget for Function 200 be recommended to the Regional Board for inclusion in the 2021 Financial Plan.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:Recommendation #1 – In-House Park Maintenance Staff

Please [click here](#) to access the Committee Agenda, please see Item 9.2 to review the report.

Additional Information: 2020 was the second year of the approved 2-year pilot project to provide in-house delivery of PRRD Regional and Community Park maintenance. The Committee discussed how successful in-house delivery was for 2020, and is recommending that the Board approve its continuation. The Committee also recommended to staff to secure a meeting with Prophet River First Nations Leadership to discuss the future of Minaker River Regional Park.

Recommendation #2 – Blackfoot Park Improvements

Please [click here](#) to access the Committee Agenda, please see Item 9.4 to review the report.

Additional Information: In early 2020, the Blackfoot Regional Park Plan was completed and presented to the Regional Board. Since that time, a number of upgrades have been made to the park, particularly since hiring seasonal parks staff to complete capital projects at the park. The Development Plan provides a road map for upgrades to the Park in order to meet the goals of the Blackfoot Regional Park Plan, Regional Parks Committee and Regional Board. The Committee agreed that the park is getting better and better with the work being done each year, and public feedback received in 2020 confirms this.

Recommendation #3 – Montney Centennial Park Transition to Day Use

Please [click here](#) to access the Committee Agenda, please see Item 9.5 to review the report.

Recommendation #4 – Montney Centennial Park Development Plan

Please [click here](#) to access the Committee Agenda, please see Item 9.5 to review the report.

Recommendation #5 – Trails GIA Bear Mountain Nordic Ski

Please [click here](#) to access the Committee Agenda, please see Item 9.6 to review the report.

Recommendation #6 – Trails GIA Northland Trailblazers

Please [click here](#) to access the Committee Agenda, please see Item 9.6 to review the report.

Recommendation #7 – Archeological Assessment Minaker River Park

Please [click here](#) to access the Committee Agenda, please see Item 9.7 to review the budget report.

Additional Information: The Committee discussed meeting with Prophet River First Nation to discuss their interest in the area and if there is an opportunity to partner with them or to transfer the license of occupation to them. Until the future of the park has been determined, the Committee would like to delay completing the archeological desktop assessment.

Please [click here](#) to access the Committee Agenda to review “Prior Year, One-Time Items” from 2020 - see Item 9.7.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

Highlights of increases and decreases in the draft 2021 Regional Parks budget include:

Funding Sources:

- Requisition (Operations and Capital) – decrease of \$80,440
- Surplus – increase of \$145,183
- Provincial Grants-in-lieu – increase of \$15,000
- Recovery of Costs – decrease of \$15,000
- Transfer from Fair Share – increase of \$50,000

Net sum of increase in overall revenue is \$114,743.

Operations:

- General expenses – increase of \$86,386
- Allocations – increase of \$27,812
- Feasibility Studies – carried over (no change)
- General Trails Grants – no change
- Blackfoot Park – decrease of \$9,440
- Minaker Park – decrease of \$6,200
- Spencer Tuck Park – decrease of \$5,300
- Swan Lake Park – increase of \$64,500
- Sundance Lakes Park – increase of \$2,750
- Various RD Properties – increase of \$6,036
- Transfer to Reserves – increase of \$15,000
- Capital expense – decrease of \$56,500

Net sum of increase in overall expenses is \$114,743.

Development of Campsite Area C with 10-12 powered campsites at Blackfoot Park was approved in 2020 by the Regional Board. This project will be completed in 2021 and \$90,000 has been budgeted for this project.

Additional Information:

\$15,000 is allocated as recovered costs from camping fees.

\$50,000 in Area D Fair Share has been included for repairs and maintenance for the Swan Lake Weir.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

As detailed in the original reports to the Regional Parks Committee.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None.

Attachments:

1. Function 200 Regional Parks Draft 2021 Budget and Tax Rate Sheet

External Links:

1. Recommendation #2 – [Blackfoot Regional Park Development Plan 2021 - 2025](#)
2. Recommendation #3 & #4 – [Montney Centennial Regional Park Development Plan 2021 - 2025](#)
3. Recommendation #5 & 6 – [2021 Recreational Trails Grant Summary of Applications](#)
[Recreational Trails Grants-in-Aid Policy](#)