

# STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

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**DATE:** May 27, 2024

**TO:** MAYOR AND COUNCIL

**NAME AND TITLE:** Blake McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations

**SUBJECT:** Park Grant Application – Outdoor Recreation Fund of BC

**ATTACHMENT(S):** None

## RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council APPROVES the City of Prince George applying for the Outdoor recreation Fund of BC, as described in the report dated May 27, 2024, from the Director of Civic Operations, titled “Park Grant Application – Outdoor Recreation Fund of BC”, and if any of the applications are successful, AUTHORIZES the Director of Civic Operations to sign the associated funding agreement(s).

## PURPOSE:

To inform council of grant opportunities the Parks Division is pursuing to support service delivery for Community Association programming.

The City of Prince George Parks division applied to the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC for the Outdoor Recreation Fund of BC that supports community-based initiatives that create meaningful outdoor recreation and nature-based experiences.

The City of Prince George and West Bowl Community Association piloted a Hiking and Nature Exploration Program this spring that invited families to join outdoor enthusiast leaders for a month-long weekly exploration of Forests for the World Park. The program was so popular and successful that this grant would help offer more program opportunities in our nature parks throughout our City.

## BACKGROUND:

Prince George Community Associations are the City of Prince George model to deliver grass root recreation programs and services for our community. There are currently seven community associations linked to neighbourhood areas in geographic locations throughout our City. These volunteer organizations build community by offering accessible recreation programs in gyms, sport fields, and parks, building outdoor ice rinks, hosting community special events and much more in their local neighbourhoods, schools and parks.

The health of this system fulfills an integral role in the City’s recreation delivery. The outdoor recreation fund grant would further support outdoor programming and partnerships. The grant would allow for additional recreation opportunities for children and families to explore Prince George exceptional nature parks through hikes, nature discovery, and games and fostering an appreciation for the outdoors and our unique environment.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

This program will help achieve City Council strategic pillars by building recreation capacity and delivery that align with social health and wellbeing, environmental stewardship and myPG goals including health and wellness, supportive and engaged communities, equity and inclusion and safe environments.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

The grant supports community associations and recreation programming aligning with Council's strategic plan. Community association recreation programs support and promote physical and social health, enhance quality of life and foster civic pride. The focus will be to enhance the current service delivery model to be responsive to community needs.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

The grant funding of up to \$3,700 will support community association family nature programs focusing on outdoor enhancement, stewardship and education and inclusive participation in a safe and social environment in nature parks throughout our city.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:**

The grant supports our recreation delivery model through our community associations and increases recreation opportunities throughout Prince George. The grant will facilitate planning and programming including leader resources and lesson plans for outdoor grass root recreation programs offered by our community associations.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

Blake McIntosh, Director, Civic Operations

**PREPARED BY:** Robyn McConkey, Parks Services Supervisor

**APPROVED:**

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting Date: 2024/05/27