

Outdoor Aquatic Spray Deck and Spray Park Strategy**Report Purpose**

To provide Council with the Outdoor Aquatic Spray Deck and Spray Park Strategy.

Recommendation

THAT the Outdoor Aquatic Spray Deck and Spray Park Strategy be approved.

Council History

April 24, 2012 – Council approved the Aquatic Strategy which provided an assessment of and recommendations related to aquatic infrastructure within Strathcona County. It identified the need to determine a county-wide strategic plan specific to spray decks and spray parks that would identify needs, operational considerations and design specifics.

Strategic Plan Priority Areas

The Outdoor Aquatic Spray Deck and Spray Park Strategy provides direction on how to plan for future outdoor aquatic facilities. Funding for new outdoor aquatic facilities, decommissioning of old outdoor aquatic facilities and future operational impacts will be required. This strategy provides a systematic approach to achieve its recommended direction.

Governance: N/A

Social: Strathcona County infrastructure provides important opportunities for Strathcona County residents to interact and be active.

Culture: Outdoor aquatic facilities provide public gathering areas which strengthen a community and its identity.

Environment: The Outdoor Aquatic Spray Deck and Spray Park Strategy provides two specific design models which limit water consumption, wastewater and operational impacts.

Other Impacts

Policy: N/A

Legislative/Legal: N/A

Interdepartmental: Capital Planning and Construction, Transportation and Agriculture Services, Utilities, Planning and Development Services, Transit, RCMP and Enforcement Services.

Summary

In April 2016, ISL Engineering and RC Strategies were hired to assist Strathcona County in creating an Outdoor Aquatic Spray Deck and Spray Park Strategy.

An evaluation of existing outdoor aquatic facilities was completed and a public engagement strategy was designed and implemented during the summer of 2016. A multi-layer approach of public engagement was used, whereby intercept surveys from the summer of 2015 were combined with a phone/on-line survey of 450+ residents in 2016. The findings from these methods were used to develop the draft principles of the strategy. The public was then asked to review the strategic direction of the strategy through an on-line survey or at one of three local events (Rural Living Days, Ardrossan Parade and Picnic, and the Strathcona County Farmers Market).

Based on the public engagement findings and review, the following four guiding principles were developed:

1. Strathcona County will endeavor to provide outdoor aquatic facilities that are free and accessible to all residents and visitors.
2. Strathcona County will consider outdoor aquatic facilities that meet contemporary market expectations related to the actual program area as well as complimentary amenities.
3. Strathcona County will support investment in environmentally friendly design and practice where feasible.
4. Strathcona County will strive to achieve geographic balance when providing any future outdoor aquatic facilities based on need and demographic analysis.

A site assessment tool has been developed that will evaluate potential sites and ensure the best possible sites are selected for future spray deck and spray park development. The tool will assess available services, site characteristics and requirements of a spray deck or spray park.

A set of design and operational standards were created to ensure we are maximizing our investment with environmentally friendly materials, water usage and efficient operational management. We have established two design templates based on these standards, for a smaller spray deck and a larger spray park.

An implementation strategy has been developed which decommissions our aged spray decks and introduces new, more modern outdoor aquatic facilities with supportive amenities. Costing to implement is at the conceptual level. A more detailed costing will be attained at the preliminary design phase of each project and shared through the Capital Budget process.

Communication Plan

Communication Objectives:

1. General awareness and interest in the Outdoor Aquatic Spray Deck and Spray Park Strategy and its implementation plan through a media release.
2. Further public engagement plans will be established for each project as per their scope. Specifics are not established at this time, however could include such tools as meetings, mail outs, project webpage, open houses, surveys, etc.

Enclosures

Encl 1 Outdoor Aquatic Spray Deck and Spray Park Strategy (Document: 9813200)

Encl 2 ppt Outdoor Aquatic Spray Deck and Spray Park Strategy (Document: 9806968)

