



The Corporation of the City of Courtenay

Briefing Note

To: Council

File No.: 7710-05

From: Director of Recreation, Culture, and Community Services

Date: May 22, 2024

Subject: Courtenay and District Memorial Outdoor Pool and Wading Pool

PURPOSE: To update Council on recent repairs made to the Courtenay and District Memorial Outdoor Pool and the decision to close the wading pool until such time as further assessments can be completed.

BACKGROUND:

On January 24, 2024 staff provided Council with an update regarding the Courtenay and District Memorial Outdoor Pool, including condition assessments. The report outlined immediate actions for the 2024 operating season, as well as proposed short and long term plans. At that meeting Council resolved:

THAT based on the January 24, 2024 report "Courtenay and District Memorial Outdoor Pool - Condition Assessments and Options Analysis", Council direct staff to proceed with procurement to start immediate repairs for the Courtenay Memorial Pool; and

THAT Council direct staff to proceed with procurement for an Options Analysis for the future of the pool at its current location.

Staff initiated and completed repairs, and continue to finalize condition assessments on both the outdoor pool and wading pool.

DISCUSSION:

Outdoor Pool

Immediately required repairs and upgrades have been completed or are underway for the outdoor pool including the following:

- Completed installation of anti-entrapment shield to main drain to reduce health and safety risks
- Replacement of sand filter medium and repairs to filter components underway
- Annual basin and deck repairs, including painting, completed.

It is expected that the outdoor pool will open on or near to planned schedule once repairs to the sand filter are complete in mid-May. Condition assessments of the outdoor pool are expected to be completed in summer of 2024, which will inform the scope of work for the Options Analysis for the future of the pool at its current location.

Wading Pool

As per the January 24, 2024 staff report, initial condition assessments of the wading pool identified significant water loss through a concrete drain sump that requires repair and may be affecting the wading pool's turnover rates. Further inspections of the wading pool have identified additional areas that require further assessment to ensure the wading pool is operating in full compliance with the BC Pool Regulation and BC

Pool Design Guidelines. Completion of this assessment is not expected until early summer 2024, following which staff will review the scope of repairs required to determine a path forward.

The wading pool is typically open July and August and offers free access to shallow, non-lifeguarded water experiences – typically for small children and their families. Based on the dates for the completed condition assessment and likely timelines for any associated repairs, it is expected that the wading pool will not open for the 2024 season. Due to the nature of the areas requiring further investigation, the City will be required to submit a repair plan to Island Health for approval before the wading pool can be opened. Staff are also cognisant of the upcoming Options Analysis and want to ensure that any repairs and the associated financial impacts align with future plans for the outdoor pool to demonstrate fiscal responsibility.

While the closure of the wading pool will be disappointing to the community, especially those with young children, the adjacent spray park offers similar water-based experiences. In addition, the 2024 season is the Courtenay and District Memorial Outdoor Pool's 75th anniversary, and as per Council's direction, public admission to the outdoor pool will be free for this year.

Island Health

Island Health, through Environmental Health Officers, inspect public pools to assess compliance with the BC Pool Regulation and BC Pool Design Guidelines to ensure public health and safety. As such, staff are in regular communication with Island Health regarding the outdoor and wading pool operations. Through recent discussions with Island Health, it has been made clear that Island Health is seeking an action plan from the City for the future of the Courtenay and District Memorial Outdoor Pool following the completion of condition assessments.

The City's decision to complete an Options Analysis considering repair, renovation, or redevelopment will meet Island Health's requirements to have this work completed by the end of 2024.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Budget for condition assessments is a carry-forward from 2023 and funded by the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) recreation grant service.

Budget for immediate repairs to the outdoor pool and wading pool of \$75,000 in 2024 is funded by the CVRD recreation grant service.

It is expected that all costs will be covered by the grant funds received from the CVRD.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS:

Planning for the future of the Courtenay and District Memorial Outdoor Pool is a strategic priority and incorporated into the work plans of Engineering Services and Recreation, Culture, and Community Services. Engineering Services will lead the Options Analysis and necessary repairs, and will work with Operational Services to complete the annual maintenance in advance of the 2024 operating season. Consultants with technical knowledge specific to this work will be utilized as required.

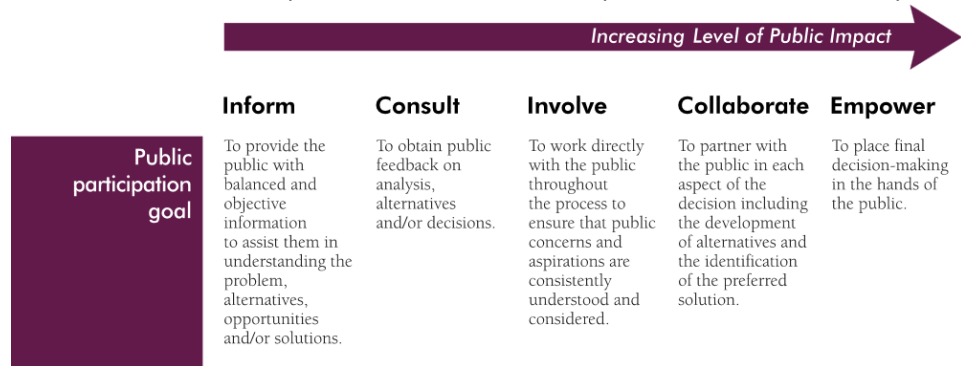
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES REFERENCE:

This initiative addresses the following strategic priorities:

- Parks and Recreation - Complete recreation facilities need assessments and capital improvements: Florence Filberg Centre, Courtenay & District Memorial Outdoor Pool, Lewis Centre

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Staff would inform the public based on the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation:



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RECOMMENDATION: THAT Council receive the “Courtenay and District Memorial Outdoor Pool and Wading Pool” briefing note.

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