

To: Electoral Area Services Committee

Date: 2020-11-10

From: Jaime Reilly, Director of Legislative Services
and Pam Loat, Legislative Coordinator

File No: 3920-20

Subject: Northside Community Parks Service Area Amendments

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board consider giving three readings to the bylaws cited as:

- Electoral Area C Community Parks Service Area Merger and Amendment Bylaw No. 1604, 2020; and
- Electoral Areas F & G (DARD) Community Parks Service Area Amendment Bylaw No. 1605, 2020.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services
Support Healthy & Sustainable Community

PRIORITIES

Priority #5 Outdoor Recreation

BACKGROUND

There are currently three FVRD community parks service areas established on the north side of the Fraser River:

1. In 1993, the Dewdney Alouette Regional District (DARD) established a community parks service area by way of *Bylaw No. 647-1993*. The service area established included DARD Electoral Areas A, B, C, D and E, which currently equate to all of FVRD Electoral Area F, the portion of Area G not including Sumas Mountain and the Lake Errock portion of Area C. There are no community parks located in Areas F or G, but there is a community park located in Lake Errock.
2. Supplementary Letters Patent dated March 10, 1989 established the Regional District of Fraser Cheam (RDFC) community parks function for all RDFC Electoral Areas. At that time, RDFC Electoral Area F was composed of what is currently FVRD Electoral Area C, excluding the Lake Errock portion, which was DARD Electoral Area D. In 2002 the FVRD converted the community parks function for Electoral Area C into a service area by way of *Bylaw No. 0539, 2002*. The service area included all of FVRD Electoral Area C, except for the Lake Errock portion, which was already included in the DARD Community Parks Service Area.

3. In 2000, the FVRD also established the Morris Valley Linear Park Local Service Area within Area C by way of *Bylaw No. 0346, 2000*. Morris Valley Linear Park is also known as Eagle Point. The service area includes 234 properties immediately adjacent to the park. Funds in this service area are provided by way of parcel taxes.

Should these bylaws proceed, further cost recovery will be by tax requisition only, and the Morris Valley Linear Park Parcel Tax Bylaw will be repealed.

There is a capital reserve balance of approximately \$27,380 associated with the DARD Community Parks Service Area, and a capital reserve fund of approximately \$8,500 and appropriated surplus \$46,100 associated with Morris Valley Linear Park Service Area. The Electoral Area C Community Parks Service Area has a remaining amount of approximately \$18,750 in its cash-in-lieu fund and approximately \$19,050 in appropriated surplus.

DISCUSSION

FVRD staff, in consultation with the applicable Electoral Area Directors, are proposing to realign the boundaries of these community parks service areas to correspond with current FVRD Electoral Area boundaries, to reflect more accurately how people use such services, to make the costs more equitable throughout, and to allow for more efficient management and administration of community parks.

There are no community parks located in Areas F or G, but Area C has Morris Valley Linear Park as well as the Lake Errock Community Park. The objective is to:

- merge the Morris Valley Linear Park Service Area with the Area C Community Park Service Area;
- to remove the Lake Errock portion of Area C from the DARD Community Parks Service Area; and
- to add the Lake Errock portion of Area C to the new merged community parks service area, creating one service for all of Electoral Area C.

COST

For Area C residents currently in the Morris Valley Linear Park Service Area, they will no longer be subject to a parcel tax, which was \$86.27 per residential property in 2020. With the new proposed service area, the average residential impact for all properties in Area C would be approximately \$15.48, based on 2020 assessment information and preliminary 2021 budget estimates.

CONCLUSION

As a result of amending the existing service areas and merging the service areas within Electoral Area C, the outcome would be the creation of one service area including only Areas F & G and one service area including all of Area C. This will provide for more equitable taxation with respect to usage and proximity of the community parks.

COMMENTS BY:

Stacey Barker, Director of Regional Services: Reviewed and supported.

Kelly Lownsborough, Chief Financial Officer/ Director of Finance: Reviewed and supported.

Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer: Reviewed and supported.