

To: CAO for the Regional and Corporate Services Committee

Date: 2019-04-09

From: Christina Vugteveen, Manager of Park Operations

File No: 2320-30

Subject: Renewal of Glen Valley and Matsqui Trail Regional Parks Operating & Maintenance Agreement

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board grant a one (1) year extension to March 31, 2020 to the Glen Valley Regional Park and Matsqui Trail Regional Park Operating and Maintenance Agreement with the City of Abbotsford for the amount of \$527,900.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Support Healthy & Sustainable Community
Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services

PRIORITIES

Priority #4 Tourism
Priority #5 Outdoor Recreation

BACKGROUND

The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD), City of Abbotsford, and Metro Vancouver worked collaboratively to transfer Matsqui Trail Regional Park, Glen Valley Regional Park, and the Western Flank of Sumas Mountain to the FVRD. These three parks operate out of a sub-regional service area which came into effect in March 2018, and includes Abbotsford and a portion of Electoral Area G.

Metro Vancouver continued to operate these parks until July 2018, with the FVRD compensating it for the portion of the year since the FVRD was legally responsible for the lands. The FVRD then entered into an agreement with the City of Abbotsford to continue maintaining and operating Glen Valley and Matsqui Trail Regional Parks, while the responsibility for the Western Flank of Sumas Mountain remained with the FVRD.

The existing *Glen Valley Regional Park and Matsqui Trail Regional Park Operating and Maintenance Agreement* and its existing Service Fee only provided for approximately 6 months of efforts undertaken by the City of Abbotsford. This agreement, which is currently up for renewal, must consider a full year's compensation for the City of Abbotsford.

DISCUSSION

Working closely with City of Abbotsford staff, an operations and maintenance plan and contract was created in order to maintain park assets in a way to best serve the public both operationally and financially. The structure of the agreement allows for yearly extensions and a review of the Service Fee, based on annual budget discussions.

The current renewal will include:

- Extension of the Term to March 31, 2020
- Increase in the Service Fee to a full year's compensation that the FVRD will pay the City of Abbotsford for operating and maintaining the parks.

The FVRD will continue to work closely with the City of Abbotsford to develop long term plans for these parks including finalizing standards of service and outlining future capital improvement requirements. Updates to these discussions and any resulting modifications to the agreement will be brought forward to the Board.

COST

In 2018, the FVRD paid \$577,777 for the operation and maintenance of Glen Valley and Matsqui Trail Regional Parks. Of this \$332,255 was paid to Metro Vancouver and \$245,522.22 was paid to City of Abbotsford. Accordingly, the Service Fee for the *Glen Valley Regional Park and Matsqui Trail Regional Park Operating and Maintenance Agreement* with the City of Abbotsford is proposed to increase to \$527,900 to reflect a full years' worth of work.

This amount is included in the approved 2019 budget for Sub-Regional Parks (West) and was based on discussions held in June 2018 with FVRD directors from Abbotsford and the Director from Electoral Area G. Operational needs were assessed at that time and 2019 priorities for the three parks were determined.

CONCLUSION

Annual contract amendments are required for the agreement between the FVRD and the City of Abbotsford to ensure budget discussions are captured for operations and maintenance of Matsqui Trail Regional Park and Glen Valley Regional Park.

COMMENTS BY:

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

Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services: Reviewed and supported.

Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer: Reviewed and supported.