
Parks and Recreation Levy and Community Centre Levy – 2021 Rates

ISSUE

This report provides an overview of the proposed 2021 rates for both the Parks and Recreation Levy and the Community Centre Levy.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services recommend to City Council:

1. That adjustments to the 2021 Parks and Recreation Levy rate, as outlined in this report, be approved; and
2. That the 2021 Community Centre Levy rates for each developing neighbourhood, as outlined in this report, be approved.

BACKGROUND

The City of Saskatoon established the Parks and Recreation Levy as a means to fund neighbourhood local parks (including core neighbourhood parks, neighbourhood pocket parks, village squares and linear parks), district parks, multi-district parks and approved recreation amenities.

At its August 15, 2012 meeting, City Council approved a single blended city-wide formula for calculation of the Community Centre Levy, beginning with the Kensington neighbourhood and all new neighbourhoods. Calculation of the Community Centre Levy is based on the year-to-year cost of acquiring 8.0 acres of potential elementary school-site property in each developing neighbourhood.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Parks and Recreation Levy

The proposed 2021 Parks and Recreation Levy rate includes a \$0.45 per front metre (0.11%) decrease. Table 1 summarizes the proposed Parks and Recreation Levy rate changes for 2021.

Table 1: Parks and Recreation Levy Rate Changes

	2020 Approved Rate	2021 Proposed Rate	Rate Change
Neighbourhood Parks	\$295.70	\$295.45	(\$ 0.25)
District Parks	\$105.50	\$105.50	(\$ 0.00)
Multi-District Parks	\$ 25.35	\$ 25.15	(\$ 0.20)
Total	\$426.55	\$426.10	(\$ 0.45)

The decrease in the Parks and Recreation Levy rate primarily relates to a favourable adjustment for the interest received on the funds held in the Parks and Recreation Levy account. There are no offsetting inflationary increases in park constructions costs, resulting in an overall rate reduction.

Community Centre Levy

Calculation of the Community Centre Levy is based on the cost of acquiring 8.0 acres of land for potential school-site property in each developing neighbourhood. The proposed Community Centre Levy rates are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2: Community Centre Levy Rate Changes

	2020 Approved Rate	2021 Proposed Rate	Rate Change
Rosewood Neighbourhood	\$107.50	\$107.50	\$ 0.00
Future Neighbourhoods	\$155.00	\$157.00	\$ 2.00

The Community Centre Levy rates for the Rosewood neighbourhood were established based on individual neighbourhoods before the single, blended rate policy changed. This neighbourhood has a unique rate, primarily due to variations in the size of the neighbourhood.

The Community Centre Levy rate for future neighbourhoods is applied to new neighbourhoods, including Kensington, Brighton, Elk Point, Aspen Ridge and all future neighbourhoods. The proposed 2021 Community Centre Levy rate of \$157 has been adjusted from \$155 to reflect the changes in the cost of land.

IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications have been outlined in this report. There are no legal, social, or environmental implications identified.

NEXT STEPS

The rates noted above came into effect January 1, 2021; any servicing work that has been charged at 2020 rates will be adjusted. Although servicing work is primarily done in the spring and summer, most of the billing occurs later in the year.

Further to this, Administration will begin the Development Levy Program Review Project in 2022 and a part of this process could include a review to rename the Community Centre Levy to better reflect the actual purpose of the levy. The name change could occur after the completion of this project.

REPORT APPROVAL

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