

2022 Annual Report – Recreation and Community Development Department

ISSUE

This report summarizes work completed in 2022 by the Recreation and Community Development Department and provides an overview of significant activities anticipated in 2023.

BACKGROUND

The Recreation and Community Development Department (Department) is comprised of a wide-ranging team of staff who oversee the provision of opportunities for residents to participate in and enjoy the benefits of sport, culture, recreation, community development, social development and wellness activities. Within the current Department, four sections deliver an array of programs and services, which include the following:

- 1) Community Development;
- 2) Recreation Facilities and Programs;
- 3) Special Use Facilities and Capital Planning; and
- 4) Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo.

CURRENT STATUS

The Department oversees the provision of an abundance of opportunities for residents and visitors to participate in and enjoy the benefits of sport, culture, recreation, community development, social development and wellness activities, which contribute to quality of life in Saskatoon. To help encourage as many people as possible to take advantage of activities available throughout Saskatoon, the Department operates a number of facilities and provides direct services and programs. The Department also provides support to community-based organizations involved in delivering programs and services, facilitates partnerships, information sharing, collaboration to strengthen groups and promote inclusion and address racism.

The work of the Department supports many aspects of the City of Saskatoon's (City) Strategic Goals of Quality of Life, Sustainable Growth and Continuous Improvement. Furthermore, the work of the Department helps advance outcomes for three of City Council's priority areas:

- 1) Recreation, Culture and Leisure;
- 2) Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; and
- 3) Community Safety and Well-Being.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The 2022 Annual Report provides an overview of initiatives undertaken throughout 2022, highlights significant projects anticipated in 2023 and summarizes specific activity levels and data associated with key functions of the Department (see Appendix 1).

The year 2022 was challenging with many activities returning to near pre-COVID levels while others experienced a slower recovery from the global pandemic. Administration continued to focus on the recovery stage of the pandemic and providing services at near normal levels and capacities. Department staff demonstrated incredible resiliency and adaptability to the continuous change in response, to changing protocols in response to the Public Health Orders and safety requirements, with the focus on providing recreational opportunities and support to the community for the physical and mental health and well-being of residents.

Some key highlights of 2022 include:

- 1) Co-produced the 8th Wîcihitowin Indigenous Engagement Conference.
- 2) Issued 8,634 Leisure Access cards to eligible lower-income residents.
- 3) Supported the 47 Community Associations to deliver programs and services to residents, including 24 community cleanup events, 33 community gardens and 55 outdoor rinks.
- 4) Awarded \$2.6M to support 188 community-based organizations.
- 5) Installed five (5) new public artworks.
- 6) The City's six (6) indoor Leisure Centres hosted a combined total of 17,724 rental bookings, which attracted 192,527 individual participants. In 2022, the number of visits to Leisure Centres totaled 919,578. In 2022, Shaw Centre and the Saskatoon Field House hosted 26 local and provincial special events.
- 7) In 2022, admission volumes at the City's four (4) outdoor pools totaled 78,643.
- 8) During the non-summer months, low-cost/no cost programs are offered to youth by the City and community agencies, with funding support from the City. In 2022, eleven (11) targeted programs (with 25 sessions) reached 1,124 participants, contracted 38 young adults and resulted in eleven (11) partnerships.
- 9) First phase of the development of the Permanent Outdoor Festival Site began with construction of the festival headquarters building and entry bosque in Friendship Park.
- 10) The City processed 413 outdoor special event requests for over 1,000 event booking dates in 2022.
- 11) Holiday Park Golf Course had the highest number of rounds of golf in 2022, in Saskatchewan, with Wildwood and Silverwood Golf Courses also in the top 10 for the number of rounds of golf in the province.
- 12) The City allocated approximately 68,950 hours of outdoor sport fields from the beginning of May to the end of October in 2022.
- 13) The new Recreation and Sport Tax Abatement program provided \$100K in tax abatements to seven (7) organizations.

- 14) The Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo had admission attendance (April 1 - October 31) of 125,778 guests, leading to a revenue of \$1,192,963.
- 15) The 24th Annual Enchanted Forest event had attendance of more than 65,000 visitors and surpassed sponsorship targets.
- 16) The Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo introduced the new Kinsmen Express II, an all-electric train, the soft opening of the butterfly exhibit and introduction of the new bobcats.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial, legal, environmental or social implications identified.

NEXT STEPS

The Recreation and Community Development Department reports annually on its activities.

APPENDICES

1. 2022 Annual Report - Recreation and Community Development

REPORT APPROVALS

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