

Neighbourhood Association Forum – September 8, 2021

Summary Notes

Key Topic: Neighbourhood Entrance Features

Planning and Development

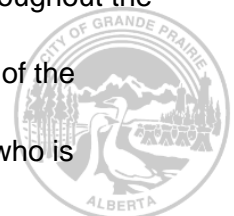
- All neighbourhood entrance features must go through an application and approval process. This helps to control how they are built and minimize future maintenance.
 - Neighbourhood developers are required to provide a design of the entrance feature to be approved by the City.
 - Once the design is approved, the entrance feature is built by the developer. Certification from the entrance feature's engineer must be provided.
 - The developer is required to maintain the entrance feature sign and landscape for 2 years before responsibility is handed over to the City.
 - A similar process is used if the entrance feature is done as a capital project.
- To have a neighbourhood flag approved, Neighbourhood Associations must apply through the grant program.
 - Flag design, cost and provider must be included.
 - As grants are reviewed by all affected departments, there are no permits required for neighbourhood flags.

Corporate Facilities

- Entrance features are maintained by Parks. Inspections are conducted on a schedule or based on community feedback/requests.
- Any replacement structures for ageing entrance features are created with input and feedback from the community.

Parks

- The design of an entrance feature is based on location, scale/size, the landscape, materials, legibility and lighting, and its ability to withstand the elements throughout the seasons.
 - The location of the entrance feature must make sense in the layout of the neighbourhood.
 - All entrance features must be on public land to avoid confusion on who is responsible for maintaining the feature.



- The sign must be at a scale that is easy to read.
- Entrance features must add to the landscape
- Entrance features should be able to last through all seasons without damage by the elements.
- The construction of an entrance feature must include the following:
 - Sign materials that are easily replaceable in the case of damage.
 - A landscape that is low maintenance with high aesthetic value.
 - A short construction timeline that fits into the construction season.
 - Sponsorship and/or donations.
- Maintenance of an entrance feature includes vandalism removal, plant replacement and maintenance, weeding, and landscape maintenance, all of which are done by the Parks department.
 - Specific routes are followed by Parks crews for weeding and other general maintenance. If you require entrance feature maintenance outside of this route, requests can be made to Parks.
- Neighbourhood Associations are encouraged to request what they need for their neighbourhood when applying for grants. These needs can include items such as:
 - Shade trees
 - Basketball courts
 - Community gardens and orchards
 - Playground equipment
 - Sculptures and art
 - Fencing around parks
- The Parks department provides consultations when determining best options for new trees and plants.
 - The overall goal of the neighbourhood is taken into account when determining which plants will grow best in that area.
 - Information on what types of trees grow best where can be found here: <https://www.cityofgp.com/city-services/services/park-space-urban-forestry/trees/local-tree-guide>
- Community Orchard Maintenance
 - Neighbourhood Associations are discouraged from pruning their own community orchards. Orchards are pruned by the Parks staff to avoid damage to orchards.
 - Neighbourhood Associations are encouraged to weed their community orchards themselves.

Replacement of Entrance Features

- Granting opportunities:
 - Community Group Funding Capital Requests
 - Community Improvement Grants
 - Applications may receive \$2,500 non-matching or up to \$5,000 in matching funds.

Updates from Each Department

- Community Social Development
 - Youth Advisory Council Recruitment
 - The deadline to apply is September 15. To apply online, visit: <https://www.cityofgp.com/yac>
 - New this year, all members of the Youth Advisory Council will receive a recreation access pass to the Eastlink Centre and opportunities to visit other facilities and venues around the city.
 - EveryoneIsImpacted.com
 - The <https://everyoneisimpacted.com/> website is the main reference page for the Opioid Crisis in Grande Prairie. This website includes current and past quarterly reports along with reference information, phone numbers and links.
 - The *Everyone is Impacted* video series, which runs until the middle of October, is being shared weekly on the [Peace Country Drug Awareness Coalition](#) Facebook page.
 - Community Compass
 - The Community Compass provides access to hundreds of independent support programs in Grande Prairie. It is designed to connect residents with the support they need.
 - To access the Digital Resource Directory visit: <https://helpseeker.org/alberta/grande-prairie/> or download the free HelpSeeker app.
- Energy and Environment
 - Drop & Swap is a clothing drive that is taking place as a part of Waste Reduction Week.
 - From October 20-22, residents are encouraged to drop off clean and gently used clothing to the Grande Prairie Public Library between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
 - On October 23, residents can come in and take what clothing they need at no cost. You are not required to donate to pick up clothing.
 - GP Grows Expansion
 - The City is hoping to expand GP Grows. An engagement session may be held to understand what more can be done with this program to benefit residents.
 - The GP Grows webpage is home to information regarding gardening at home, community orchards, Grande Prairie as a Bee City, and more. Visit <https://www.cityofgp.com/city-services/services/park-space-urban-forestry/gp-grows>
 - When a neighbourhood is developed, developers are required to provide one free tree to each property along collector roads.

- Tree Replacement Program
 - If the City is required to cut down trees, such as in the case of diseases and infestations, we aim to replace every tree that is cut down, either with the same type or a similar type of tree.
 - In some cases, trees may have been planted overtop of utility lines or in other locations where replacing is not an option. In this case, we may be able to plant the new tree close to the original location.
- Enforcement Services
 - 2021 Summer Bike Patrol
 - Officers spent time in the City parks, such as Muskoseepi Park, cleaning up camps. They also encouraged kids to wear safety gear when biking and skateboarding.
 - As we transition into fall and winter, officers are stationed in school zones and other traffic-heavy areas.
 - Positive feedback received for the flashing lights at the St Gerard's School crosswalk in Highland Park. These lights helped to reduce speeding in the school zone.

Q&A

- How to apply to have a fountain in your neighbourhood:
 - Send an email to commrecdev@cityofgp.com for more information.
 - Please note neighbourhood residents may be required to pay a special tax to accommodate the water feature. Neighbourhood Associations may also fundraise to cover these costs.
 - Fountains and water features require plenty of annual upkeep.
- Where can community orchards not be placed?
 - Community orchards must be 200 meters from the Bear Creek corridor. The Swanavon and Grand Banks neighbourhoods may have difficulty applying for a community orchard due to this.