

BR #5347 – Parkland Growth

Description of Budget Request

This BR is for the labour, materials, and supplies to maintain 90.65 hectares (224 acres) of new parkland, trails and cemeteries entering the City's inventory from 2025 to 2028 and new amenities at existing parks. Key services including grass cutting, sports field maintenance, litter and waste management, horticulture services, and maintenance of park amenities (e.g., spray pads, playgrounds) will be carried out by nine new permanent FTEs (two in 2025 and 2026, four in 2027 and one in 2028).

Why Staff Recommend this Initiative

This initiative ensures that new City-owned parks and open space amenities are maintained to current service levels for the appropriate amenity type. It provides Parks, Forestry & Environment with the necessary resources to ensure that services are delivered in a cost-effective manner. An established parkland growth model is used to ensure park size, amenities, usage and existing staff capacity are taken into account when determining what is required to maintain new parkland.

Details of Service Change

This request is for budget for the labour, materials and supplies that are required to maintain newly acquired and developed park assets and additional amenities at existing or redeveloped parks.

Highlights of this service change in 2025 include the development of Credit Meadows, and completion of the Gulleden Park and Marina Park redevelopments. New amenities in existing parks include additional sports lighting, eight tennis courts, two spray pads, three outdoor fitness equipment sites, one washroom, a lit multi-use ramp, and new cricket lighting at Danville Park. Resources required for redevelopments are solely based on the new amenities added.

In addition to the development of M City, Lakeview and Brightwater sites, multiple new amenities are planned from 2026 to 2028. This budget request will be adjusted annually, as required, to allow for any design changes beyond 2025 as the plan continues to evolve.

In order to maintain these assets, two FTEs have been requested for 2025 and 2026, four in 2027, and one in 2028. These FTEs include operational and community engagement staff to support park services.

Staffing needs are assessed using a parkland growth model which considers the size of the new property, turf and horticultural areas, planned amenities and existing capacity of staff within that area. Operational staff are required to perform sanitation, turf, horticultural work, sport-field and general maintenance.