

Council Report

Committee Meeting Date: November 6, 2019
Council Meeting Date: December 17, 2019

To: Council
From: Mayor Simpson
Committee: Next Step on Trails Development

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a funding request for the next stage of trails development both within the City and in the fringe area.

Summary:

With the success of the current trails initiative, Council has an opportunity to maintain the momentum and advance this part of our transition strategy by committing some of this year's Council Initiatives funds to the development of a Master Trails strategy for the area adjacent to West Fraser Timber Park.

Specifically, a comprehensive trail master plan needs to be created with specific construction details for three community-based trails: Rec Centre connector, Red Bluff Connector, family friendly trail network. The completed plan would provide trail layout and design criteria, sensitive habitat assessment and best practices, land management agreements, and a phased budget proposal.

The proposed budget for this planning work is \$15,000 based on a quote.

Council should also consider asking the North Cariboo Rural Directors to use some of their economic development funds to fund a similar project to connect the two new trail systems at Dragon Mountain and Wonderland.

The main reason we need to internalize these costs is the loss of the Rural Dividend Fund which was accessed for the previous planning and trail building initiatives. Both the City and CRD can use Federal Gas Tax money for trail building and the City has \$150,000 in this year's budget for trail building that will not be utilized and can potentially be carried over to next year.

Recommendations:

1. That Quesnel City Council approve \$15,000 from 2019 Council Initiatives budget to fund a master trail plan for the area adjacent to West Fraser Timber Park.
2. That Quesnel City Council request the North Cariboo Rural Directors to consider funding a trail plan for the interconnector trail between the Dragon Mountain and Wonderland trail networks.