

Report to Council



Date: November 25, 2019
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: Community Resiliency Investment Program Funding 2020
Department: Park Services

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the November 25, 2019 report from the Urban Forestry Technician with respect to 2020 Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Program funding;

AND THAT Council approves staff to apply for a grant from the CRI program to continue to support wildfire fuel mitigation;

AND FURTHER THAT upon confirmation of the grant award, the current Financial Plan will be amended to include the receipt of up to \$150,000 from the Community Resiliency Investment Program.

Purpose:

To seek Council approval towards an application for funding through the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Program.

Background:

The City of Kelowna has a well-established Community Wildfire Protection Program. Program priorities are determined by our current *Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)*.

The CWPP is a document that defines the wildfire risk in an identified area, identifies measures necessary to mitigate those risks and outlines a plan of action to be implemented.

Many prioritized recommendations of the current CWPP have been or are being addressed through capital and external funding. Our primary source of external funding is the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Program; a provincial initiative intended to reduce the risk and impact of wildfire to communities in British Columbia through community funding, supports, and priority fuel management activities within municipal boundaries. In 2019 the City of Kelowna received \$100,000 (2019 maximum award) to complete activities related to CWPP recommendations, including:

- Initiation of wildfire fuel mitigation across the eastern parcel of Knox Mountain Park - Phase 1 (\$55,000);
- Development of a wildfire fuel mitigation maintenance schedule for previously treated areas;
- Development of a landscaping standard for wildland-urban interface areas that meets FireSmart guidelines (including a requirement for a landscape plan to be included with DP application);
- Updating our Terms of Reference document that will be provided to developers and Qualified Professionals completing the assessments that lists all required elements of a basic wildfire hazard report; and
- Assessment of our current development permit processes to identify opportunities to align the process with the goals of our CWPP (total allocation for latter four activities is \$45,000).

Discussion:

On October 18th, 2019, staff applied for 2020 CRI Program funding of \$150,000 (2020 maximum award). Allocation of these funds are to be used to complete the second phase of fuel mitigation work across Knox Mountain Park East. If possible, 2019 and 2020 CRI funding will be coordinated to complete the fuel mitigation as one activity over the winter of 2019/2020. In the event this is not possible, we will proceed with Phase 1 of work (\$55,000 portion of 2019 award) this season and continue with Phase 2 of work (\$150,000 total of 2020 award) in the winter of 2020/2021. Applications for CRI Program funding require a new Council resolution annually.

Internal Circulation:

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Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

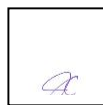
External Agency/Public Comments:

Communications Comments:

Submitted by:

T. Bergeson, Urban Forestry Technician

Approved for inclusion:



Joe Creron, Deputy City Manager - Operations

cc: