

## ***PARKS AND RECREATION***

### **NEW PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE PLAN APPROVED**

In October 2017 Council approved a new twelve-member committee for the purpose of providing a forum for the community to advise on “creating, operating and maintaining parks, recreation and wellness programs, services, and facilities that meet the needs of all of the community in a sustainable and dynamic manner.”

The Committee is charged with providing Council with advice and recommendations on:

- planning, development, and the provisions of parks, recreation, and wellness services;
- the potential for parks, recreation, and wellness programming with partners
- environmental stewardship of parks and services
- equitable access to parks, recreation and wellness services and facilities by all citizens; and
- applications for funding and subsidies for recreation services and facilities;

Less than two months later the first year of a proposed multiple year plan of Parks improvements and new community activities from the Committee was endorsed by Council at their November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Committee will now attempt to facilitate Alberta lottery funding for implementation in 2018. The plan includes spring shoreline cleaning and remediation, replacement of the walking bridge at the west end of Crystal Springs Close and a “community facility enhancement” plan to remove dead and decaying trees, a repaired, expanded and more useable “community center” with power, lighting, consideration of a fire-pit and inclement weather protection. Children’s playground improvements, a walking path for the “mobility challenged” and volleyball nets in the “triangular park” are also proposed. The “community facility enhancements” will depend upon Alberta Environment and Alberta Culture & Tourism consultations and funding. In addition, water aeration will be assessed and a swim platform evaluated for safety.

In addition, the group is proposing expanded community-building activities like “Meet & Greet” sessions with a BBQ already planned for May 26<sup>th</sup> and additional events in July and August. They have also endorsed the Dec 9<sup>th</sup> Council sponsored wine & cheese social and plans for newcomer welcoming.

In the new year, the group will continue their work on a multiple year plan for the remaining parks and land reserves.