



Intermunicipal Land Purchase Request – Prairie Sky Cemetery

Electoral Division: 6

File: N/A

Table with 2 columns: Field (Date, Presenter, Department, Approved by) and Value (March 26, 2024, Ben Manshanden, Intergovernmental Strategist, Intergovernmental Services and Regional Planning, [X] Executive Director / Director and/or [ ] Chief Administrative Officer)

REPORT SUMMARY

This report seeks Council direction on a recent City of Calgary request for County consent to purchase a parcel of land in Rocky View County for the purposes of future cemetery expansion of the Prairie Sky Cemetery in southeast Calgary. As per Section 72(1) of the Municipal Government Act, municipalities are required to seek written consent for the purchase of land in another municipality. The lands in question comprise 52.6 hectares (130 acres), which are located at 231065 Range Road 284 (4:28:23:8:SE), as per the map in Attachment 'A'.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council directs Administration to provide written consent for The City of Calgary (The City) to purchase the 130 acres of land located at 231065 Range Road 284 (4:28:23:8:SE), as per the map in Attachment 'A'.

BACKGROUND

In November 2023, City of Calgary Administration contacted Rocky View County Administration indicating that The City may be considering the purchase of a parcel of land located in Rocky View County for the purposes of future cemetery expansion. The existing Prairie Sky Cemetery opened in 2021 and is located to the east side of Ralph Klein Park within the City of Calgary. It offers a variety of services including in-ground burial plots, in-ground cremation burial plots and green burials. The lands that The City is interested in purchasing comprise 52.6 hectares (130 acres) directly adjacent to the existing cemetery and are located at 231065 Range Road 284 (4:28:23:8:SE), as per the map in Attachment 'A'. This item was discussed at the March 11, 2024, Calgary-Rocky View Intermunicipal Committee meeting, and no significant concerns were identified.

ANALYSIS

As per Section 72(1) of the Municipal Government Act, municipalities are required to seek written consent for the purchase of land in another municipality. The parcel of land that has been identified is immediately adjacent to an existing cemetery facility within Calgary city limits and is located in The City's future growth area, as per the Rocky View-Calgary Intermunicipal Development Plan. However, The City has indicated that they are not considering annexation of this area in the near future, and that all future development or operations will comply with relevant County policies, bylaws and statutory plans.

The City has indicated that the proposed purchase is to support long-term cemetery needs, so immediate construction or operation of cemetery facilities are not anticipated. City analysis indicates that the existing cemetery facility located at Prairie Sky will provide up to 30 years of capacity for casket burials, and the proposed expansion would provide an additional 50 years of capacity. The City's purchase of

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adjacent lands at this time would allow for long-term operation efficiencies and cost-savings. The parcel consists of 130 acres, of which 85 acres are assessed to be usable for future cemetery services and the remaining 45 acres have identified wetlands that would be preserved.

If this request is approved by County Council, The City would be required to apply for a future redesignation as the parcel is currently zoned A-GEN under the County *Land Use Bylaw*, and the site may potentially require a Master Site Development Plan, depending on the future vision for the site. Administration has no concerns with the request to purchase the lands identified in Attachment 'A'. If approved by County Council, next steps would entail Administration drafting a letter indicating support for the proposed land purchase.

### COMMUNICATIONS / ENGAGEMENT

N/A

### IMPLICATIONS

#### Financial

There are no immediate financial implications associated with approving this request.

### STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Key Performance Indicators		Strategic Alignment
Effective Service Delivery	SD2: Services are resourced and delivered to specific groups as intended, and citizens are satisfied with the outcomes	If approved and constructed, it is possible that some County residents may choose this site for future cemetery services.

### ALTERNATE DIRECTION

THAT Council directs Administration to refuse the request from The City of Calgary to purchase the lands identified in Attachment 'A'.

### ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Letter from The City of Calgary – Acquisition of 4;28;23;8;SE for Expansion of Prairie Sky Cemetery