



City of Calgary/Rocky View County Recreation Memorandum of Understanding

Electoral Division: All

File: N/A

Date:	April 8, 2025
Presenter:	Keagan Andrew, Intergovernmental Advisor
Department:	Intergovernmental and Regional Services

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to receive Council approval of the City of Calgary/Rocky View County Recreation Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This is a non-binding agreement that confirms the mutual intention of the two municipalities to establish a framework for future intermunicipal collaboration on recreation. This MOU was discussed at the January 2025 Intermunicipal Committee meeting, and elected representatives agreed to bring it before City and County Councils for direction.

This framework will be based on the principles of shared interests, autonomy, open dialogue, mutual benefit and evidence-based decision-making. These principles will guide the two municipalities to contribute the staff and financial resources needed to develop a project plan that will help serve as a model for this collaboration.

Should Council approve the Recreation MOU, Rocky View County (the County) and The City of Calgary (the City) will identify a project to serve as a model for this collaboration and develop a project plan that will be presented to Council for approval no later than Q3 2025. If approved, this work will be used to aid in the preparation of an Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework agreement between the City and the County.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve the City of Calgary/Rocky View County Recreation Memorandum of Understanding as presented in Attachment A.

BACKGROUND

The County has a population of over 44,000 residents who are spread over more than 950,000 acres. The County's unique geography, combined with a residential development pattern that often focuses growth around urban municipal boundaries, means that rural residents often shop, work, and recreate within the nearest urban centre. Municipalities frequently partner on service delivery in order to realize efficiencies, ensure quality services, and thoughtfully mitigate any intermunicipal impacts. To date, the County has negotiated operational recreation services agreements with Airdrie, Beiseker, Cochrane, Crossfield, and Irricana. Each agreement is uniquely tailored to fit the circumstances and is data-driven where possible.

City and County administrations have met on numerous occasions to discuss shared interests, challenges, and opportunities with respect to recreation. Given the City's relative size and reciprocal use of County facilities, the parties have recognized that the typical rural-urban agreement will not meet the needs of either municipality and are seeking Council approval to explore innovative frameworks to best serve the residents of both municipalities.

City of Calgary/Rocky View County Recreation Memorandum of Understanding

To facilitate this work, Administrations have drafted a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (Attachment A), which is a concise, principles-based document that signals a collective commitment to working collaboratively, and seeks innovative, evidence-based solutions to meet the recreational needs of residents while acknowledging substantial differences to municipal recreational approaches. Pending City and County Council approvals, the MOU would support a joint project to establish a framework for outlining collaborative recreational processes, decision-making protocols, and joint advocacy for funding from senior levels of government.

ANALYSIS

While there have been issues with the City related to recreational impacts in the past, this approach would allow the City and the County to find common ground and work together to find constructive solutions that meet the interests of both municipalities. Residents, no matter where they live, will benefit from a well-integrated and efficient approach to delivering recreational services. Collaboration allows municipalities to complement each other's strengths, avoid duplication, and more effectively advocate for shared goals.

Once the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board is dissolved, the City and the County will be required to negotiate an Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) agreement. ICF agreements are master servicing agreements that identify services that benefit residents of both municipalities that are party to the agreement. ICFs identify which municipality is responsible for providing a service and mechanisms to service delivery and funding. This MOU will begin the process of identifying intermunicipal impact and the work required to address the requirements of an ICF agreement.

The foundation for the success of future collaboration is fostering a strong relationship built on trust, sharing information and knowledge, and building a mutual understanding of the unique approaches of each jurisdiction. By focusing on a data-driven approach, acknowledging reciprocal use, and focusing on cost-effective solutions, the parties will realize efficiencies and deliver quality recreation opportunities to residents of both municipalities.

Should Council approve the MOU, Administration will work with the City to identify a recreation project that may serve as a model for collaboration. This project will address intermunicipal collaboration for recreation based on the principles of shared interest, autonomy, open dialogue, mutual benefit, and evidence-based decision-making outlined in the MOU. A project plan will be developed and presented to the City of Calgary/Rocky View County Intermunicipal Committee for review and brought to each Council for approval no later than Q3 2025, with a request to authorize both Administrations to begin work on the chosen recreation project.

COMMUNICATIONS / ENGAGEMENT

No communication or engagement is required.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

There are no direct financial implications associated with the approval of the MOU; however there will be administrative resources assigned to the completion of a project management plan and any future work associated with this project. Any financial implications associated with the completion of projects identified in the project management plan stemming from the MOU will be subject to Council approval prior to implementation.

City of Calgary/Rocky View County Recreation Memorandum of Understanding

Other Implications

Approval of this MOU will reaffirm the County’s commitment to regional collaboration.

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	SD2.1: Citizens satisfied with the range of County services available/delivered
Effective Service Delivery	SD4: Services are continually assessed for improvements in cost efficiency, effectiveness, and customer experience	SD4.1: Services that are assessed annually for innovation opportunities and have demonstrable efficiency improvements
		The MOU will set the stage for future recreation cost sharing agreements with the City of Calgary. This will ensure a unique opportunities for efficiency and provide residents with access to high-quality recreation facilities at a reduced cost.
		Establishing recreation cost sharing agreements allows the County to effectively provide recreation services for residents of the County that live in areas that cannot reasonably sustain recreation facilities.

ALTERNATE DIRECTION

THAT Council receive the City of Calgary/Rocky View County Recreation Memorandum of Understanding for information.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: City of Calgary/Rocky View County Recreation Memorandum of Understanding

APPROVALS

Manager:	Amy Zaluski, Director, Intergovernmental & Regional Services
Executive Director/Director:	Amy Zaluski, Director, Intergovernmental & Regional Services
Chief Administrative Officer:	Reegan McCullough, Chief Administrative Officer