

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND LAND USE ASSESSMENT

Issue

A Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Assessment has been created for lands within the Town of Okotoks and is provided to Council for approval and implementation.

Motion Proposed by Administration

That Administration be directed to begin the process of implementing the recommendations contained in the Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Assessment.

Report, Analysis and Financial Implications

In January 2021 the Town initiated work with Arrow Archaeology, the Blackfoot Confederacy, the Tsuut'ina Nation and the Stoney Nakoda Nation on the preparation of a Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Assessment (TKLUA) of lands within the Town's boundaries.

Arrow Archaeology and all Treaty 7 nation consultation offices were contracted to undertake a Town wide TKLUA. The intent of this project was to work with First Nations experts and Elders from all Treaty Seven Nations, assisted by professional archaeologists and other experts, to understand the cultural, historic, natural and spiritual values of the lands located in Okotoks from an Indigenous perspective.

More specifically, the TKLUA considered:

- Places where naturally occurring plants are harvested for food, clothing, medicines, tools, shelter and fuel.
- Places where rocks, minerals, and soils are collected for making tools, conducting ceremonies, and other purposes.
- Ecological knowledge of habitats and sites critical to the survival of important animal and plant populations.
- Habitation and economic practices sites, such as settlements.
- Spiritual, religious and sacred places such as ceremonial sites, rock paintings and burial locations.
- Special places of history, legend, myth and other accounts about specific places.

The methodology used to complete this study allows First Nation experts and Elders to address and present traditional resources issues, make recommendations to the Town regarding preservation, preservation and acceptable impacts, or mitigation in the event of unavoidable impacts by development and other disturbance factors.

This complete and comprehensive TKLUA provides guidance to the Town with regard to future planned impacts to the Sheep River Valley within the Town's limits and in any other areas of the Town that are composed of undisturbed or minimally disturbed natural terrain. The project is relevant to all future major land development activities in the town, including but not limited to Area Structure Plans, infrastructures projects and projects such as the Arts and Learning Centre.

This project provided 21 recommendations for Town Council to consider as it relates to future work with Indigenous peoples including, but not limited to:

- Establishing formal processes for Indigenous involvement regarding future development,
- Increasing protection, identification and education regarding traditional plantings,
- Undertaking site specific TKLUAs as a requirement in new growth areas,
- Expanding the Old Macleod Trail designation and expanding the interpretive aspects of the trail including outlining its cultural significance,
- Adding first nations welcome messaging to Town Gateway signs,
- Giving first nations names to Town facilities,
- Having annual events that highlight first nations history and culture, and
- Updating Town plans such as the Culture Heritage and Arts Master Plan to reflect Okotoks/ First nations Culture and Heritage.

Strategic Plan Goals

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Manage Community Growth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide Strong Governance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide Quality Community Infrastructure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Community
<input type="checkbox"/>	Enhance Organizational Excellence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Foster Economic Vitality
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Promote Environmental Excellence

Governing Policies/Bylaws/Legislation or Agreements

The TKLUA project was driven by Town Council's priority of being more welcoming and inclusive as well as a desire to address the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the United Nations' Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Public Participation Strategy

This process has led to the renaming of Dewdney Park as Piisttoo Park and the Bible Camp Lands as Iitopatopa Park by First Nations associated public events led by First Nations.

Alternatives for Consideration

n/a

CAO Comments

I support these recommendation. As part of Councils newly approved strategic plan, it has prioritized creating space for meaningful dialogue with Indigenous groups using the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action as a guiding document. This TKLUA will be built into the strategic implementation plan to achieve Council's desired results.

Attachment(s)**1. Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Assessment – Town of Okotoks**

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September 21, 2022