

## CITY OF ST. ALBERT ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER

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### **TITLE:** Eldorado Soccer Fields

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On February 25, 2017 Councillor Russell provided written notice in accordance with Section 23 of Procedure Bylaw 35/2009 that he intended to bring forward the following motion:

That Administration review the attached photo and comments, from local residents that met over past two days, and consider a revised use of the park site that would dedicate the smallest soccer field to local neighbourhood use as well as consider the other suggestions offered.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Historically, park master planning is completed prior to the development of the school site. In the case of Eldorado park, this site was established as a park many years prior to the school being built. Ideally, as is currently the case with Joyal and Everitt parks, the school and the park site development occur concurrently.

#### **Erin Ridge Neighborhood Park Planning**

When developing a park master plan, the entire area is taken into consideration to find a balance between structured and spontaneous park and recreation opportunities. Currently, Erin Ridge has 11 designated parks which provide a mixture of opportunities including passive green spaces, trails, playgrounds, sportfields, tarmacs, social ice surfaces, baseball diamonds, etc. The map on the following page visually represents the recreation amenities that are available in this area.

To provide additional context to this backgrounder, Eldorado Park has been outlined in red on the following map.



A full map of City recreation amenities can be found at  
[https://stalbert.ca/global/images/maps/StAlbert\\_Brochure\\_Amenities.pdf](https://stalbert.ca/global/images/maps/StAlbert_Brochure_Amenities.pdf)

|                  |                 |                               |             |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Ball Diamond     | Soccer Field    | Outdoor Rink<br>(with boards) | Playgrounds |
| Basketball Court | Tennis Court    | Ice Surface/Tarmac            |             |
|                  | Track and Field |                               |             |

## **Eldorado Park**

Through the Area Structure Plan for this site (Bylaw 8/96), Eldorado Park was designated as a park and school site. Prior to the school being built, Eldorado Park was developed to include three sportfields; two full size sportfields and one mini sportfield. As part of the school site development planning process, Administration worked interdepartmentally, as well as with the Province, to plan utilization of the school/park site. The park portion of a school/park site typically provides for sportfields as a primary use. During the school site planning process for Eldorado Park, Administration worked to ensure that one of the full-sized fields and the mini-field remained after the school boundaries were determined. This is a consistent level of amenity as will be found at school/park sites throughout the City.

### *Sportfield Use at Eldorado Park*

Annually, Administration works with sport partners to assess need and align to facility availability. Currently, demand for playfields from community users requires access to all the sportfields currently in the St. Albert inventory. To ensure the current service standards for sportfields is retained, the sportfield that was removed at Eldorado Park has been replaced with the development of a sportfield at Everitt Park, which will be completed by September 2017.

Typically, parks adjacent to school developments are developed with sportfields. As per the Reciprocal Use Agreement, schools use these sportfields for their physical education curriculum and active play throughout the school day allowing opportunity for community spontaneous use in the evening and weekends.

The total booked hours of use at the full sized sportfield at Eldorado Park in 2016 was 160 hours from May to September (21 weeks). The mini sportfield is also booked to local user groups and was booked 78 hours in 2016 from May through July. Bookings of these sportfields are typically weekday evenings. Even with the sportfield being booked for community use, there is significant opportunity for community spontaneous use during non-booked times, particularly on weekends.

## Erin Ridge North Park Planning

Future Erin Ridge North Neighborhood development will take place south of Coal Mine road in the areas identified on the ASP map (right).

As part of the planning for these parcels of land, public engagement would occur with the residents to understand community need.

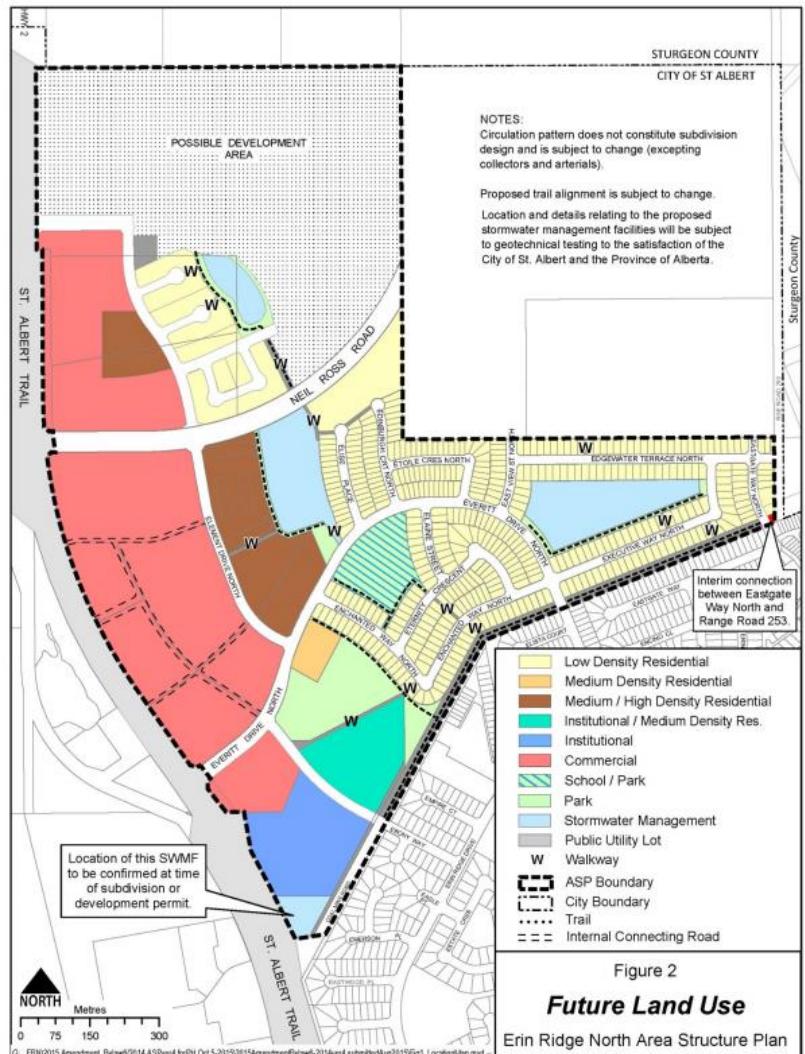
There is the potential for these areas to include more structured amenities such as tennis courts and outdoor rinks; if that is what the community desires. These features were identified as being desired in the resident request included in the attachment titled "*Eldorado Park Future Use 2017*".

## Park Redevelopment

It is difficult to respond to evolving community needs by simply adding amenities to Eldorado Park without completing public engagement and a functional feasibility analysis of the Park. In addition, there is currently little methodology in place to address ad hoc requests for recreation amenities throughout the city, outside of the City's budgeting process.

In the 10-year capital plan, several park projects have been identified and communicated to the public. These projects reflect a high-level of anticipated spending priorities for park & recreation amenity development.

Outside of the budget process, Administration is currently working on a park planning model, which may help to better identify if there are points in a neighbourhood's life cycle, or occurrences within a neighbourhood that would trigger park redevelopment planning. The model is also expected to identify what type of parks should be provided and what types of amenities are provided in each type of park.



If this motion is supported by Council, a project charter would be developed for consideration through the 2018 budget process.

The charter would include:

- Public engagement.
- Assessment and feasibility.
- Conceptual planning.
- Costing of infrastructure and amenities based on the feedback received.

If the project charter is approved through the 2018 budget process, Administration would undertake the public engagement, feasibility and conceptual plan in 2018 with a request for funding for redevelopment of the park in 2019/2020.

Should Council determine a redevelopment of Eldorado park is a priority, Administration would need to reprioritize currently planned projects to take on this work in the next several years.

Attachment: Eldorado Park Future Use Aerial Maps

Report Date: April 3, 2017

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