

Council highlights

Glenbow Ranch Park Foundation – SouthBow Visitor Centre Proposal

Representatives from the Glenbow Ranch Park Foundation presented a vision for a new Visitor Centre at SouthBow Landing. The site, near the new Bow River bridge, would serve as a key gateway between Cochrane and Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park, offering programs, tourism services, and improved access to natural spaces.

Recreation Facility Management

CAO Mike Derricott updated Council on the Town's Recreation Facility Request for Proposal. The YMCA has been selected as the preferred operator, and their Board approved the Lease and Operating Agreement on May 14.

Council will consider next steps in the process at the May 26 Council Meeting.

1107-02 ~ Social Media Policy Amendment

Administration proposed updates to Cochrane's Social Media Policy, originally adopted in 2012. Changes reflect the rise of new platforms, updated legal requirements, and best practices to ensure responsible communication and staff safety.

The Willows – Land Use Amendment Update

Administration provided a report to Council on a proposed Land Use Amendment in the community of The Willows of River Heights (The Willows). The amendment is intended to facilitate the development of medium density housing and park space in the western portion of the community. This application was originally presented to the Committee of the Whole on April 15th and received a Public Hearing on May 13th, 2024.

In response to the feedback received at the Public Hearing the applicant submitted an alternative proposal which was presented to Committee of

the Whole on September 16th, 2024. The applicant placed the application on hold, and it is again being presented to Committee of the Whole for information in preparation of Second and Third Reading.

Parks & Active Living Section Update

Director Michelle Delorme presented a summary of 2024 accomplishments and 2025 goals across Parks, Recreation, Arts & Culture, Events, Diversity & Inclusion, and Community Investment.

- 2024 focus: Growth planning, collaboration, and sustainable practices
- 2025 priorities include:
 - Launching a Library Facility Needs Assessment
 - Advancing a 50-year land agreement with the Lions Club
 - Improving community wayfinding and accessibility
 - Supporting volunteerism and partnerships
 - Strengthening school site planning through a Joint Use Planning Agreement

Horse Creek Sports Park – Project Update

The Town is moving ahead with plans for the Horse Creek Sports Park, a major recreational development designed to meet growing community needs. Updates to the project reflect improved site design, infrastructure requirements, and feedback from community recreation priorities.

Cochrane is advancing design and preparation for the new Horse Creek Sports Park:

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- 2025 plans: Site servicing, stormwater pond, and design for six ball diamonds, sport courts, flex space, and a clubhouse
- 2026 goals: Begin construction of fields and pathways, complete parking, and continue environmental reviews
- Future phases will depend on funding and evolving community needs

Bylaw 13/2025 ~ Traffic Bylaw Amendment

Council reviewed a proposed update to Cochrane's Traffic Bylaw (13/2025) to reflect modern transportation modes like bikes, e-scooters, and multi-use pathways. The bylaw aligns with the new Active Transportation Design Guidelines and includes:

- Clear rules for micromobility devices (e.g., lighting, where they can operate)
- New passing laws: Drivers must give cyclists at least 1–1.5m of space
- Updated parking rules to protect bike lanes and crossings
- Defined right-of-way rules for shared pathways

Public feedback and Council readings are scheduled for June and July 2025, followed by community education and outreach.