



# THE TOWN OF BASSANO NEWSLETTER

THE BEST IN THE WEST BY A DAM SITE!

## Recreation Highlights

The Mayor and Council of Bassano are pleased to provide an update to residents regarding the new deal that was negotiated with the County of Newell for recreation in 2019 as part of a new operating framework (Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF)). The actions and support of both councils made this happen and the collaborative benefits are summarized below.

What does this new deal mean for Bassano and Division 6 residents? Simply put, each municipality contributes equally to provide recreation and culture services to improve the quality of life for our residents.

### Operating

1. The net deficit (operating loss) for all recreation facilities that are operated by the Town are now funded equally by each partner through taxation. The 2020 net deficit is estimated at \$362,000 to be split between both partners. Recreation allocations are contingent upon departmental budget approvals for the airport, Thrive facility, outdoor pool, arena and recreation centres, and the Community Hall.

*Note 1: the figures outlined above are based on approved expenses. The Town's recreation and culture budgets include some other expenses that are not cost shared.*

### Capital

2. Capital recreation projects are now considered on a case-by-case basis. In January, the Town and the County approved a multi-year capital upgrade plan (see Figure 1). The capital upgrades were influenced by the Town's Infrastructure Master Plan prepared by MPE Engineering in 2018. The estimated cost of the projects over three years is \$181,000. The Town's contribution is \$87,500 or 48% funded from the Recreation and Culture Reserve. The County's contribution is \$93,500 or 52% funded from capital reserves and carry forward enhancement funds. The Town will prepare and submit grants where applicable to help offset both municipalities expenses for the projects. Project highlights will follow.

Facility	2020	2021	2022
Joint Use Facility	Wall mounted boilers - \$6,000 (est.)	Fire Alarm System - \$50,000 (est.)	Exit and Emergency Lighting - \$15,000 (est.)
Outdoor Pool	Replace sand and laterals in 7 pool filters - \$15,000 (est.)  Replace waterslide stairs (per Alberta Health Services) - \$5,000 (est.)  Replace changeroom floors and repair water damage on walls (per Alberta Health Services) - \$15,000 (est.)	No capital projects	Controller upgrades - \$5,000 (est.)
Community Hall	No capital projects	Barrier Free Upgrades (entrance, doors, bathrooms) - \$70,000 (est.)	No capital projects

## Grants

3. A new recreation grant fund was approved for user groups within the Town and Division 6. Previously, the County provided \$50,000 in recreation grant funds to user groups (Division 6 Funds). As part of the new ICF, each partner is responsible to contribute \$25,000 toward the recreation grant and the Town is responsible to administer the recreation grant program. A committee of four elected officials, Doug Barlow, Irv Morey, Molly Douglass, and Kelly Christman developed the recreation grant policies and procedures (approved on January 28, 2020) to allow user groups to apply for recreation grants for operating expenses, programs and events. Promotional and marketing material will be distributed in late February.

- Applications will open on March 31
- Applications close on April 30
- Evaluation period is May 1 – May 14
- Grant disbursement period is May 15 – May 31

The grant process will be reviewed annually by November 1 to ensure the program is meeting its intended outcome. If necessary, the committee may make changes to the application or its process. We are all in this together, the committee members ran through various mock applications to ensure the process is easy for users. If you require assistance in preparing your application, any of the committee members can help guide you through the process.

Additional information can be found on the Town website ([www.bassano.ca](http://www.bassano.ca)).

Do you ever wonder how you can become better informed about initiatives such as the ICF?

- Invite a councillor for coffee and ask about new and existing initiatives.
- Participate in monthly council meetings.
- Read the council packages that are posted on the Town website.
- Participate in town hall meetings.
- Follow us on social media.

## **CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE**

The Province of Alberta endorsed the Town's Expression of Interest (EOI) to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) for the Wastewater treatment Upgrades and Wastewater Irrigation Project. This means, the Town can move into the next phase and submit a grant application to the Federal government for ICIP funding for the project.

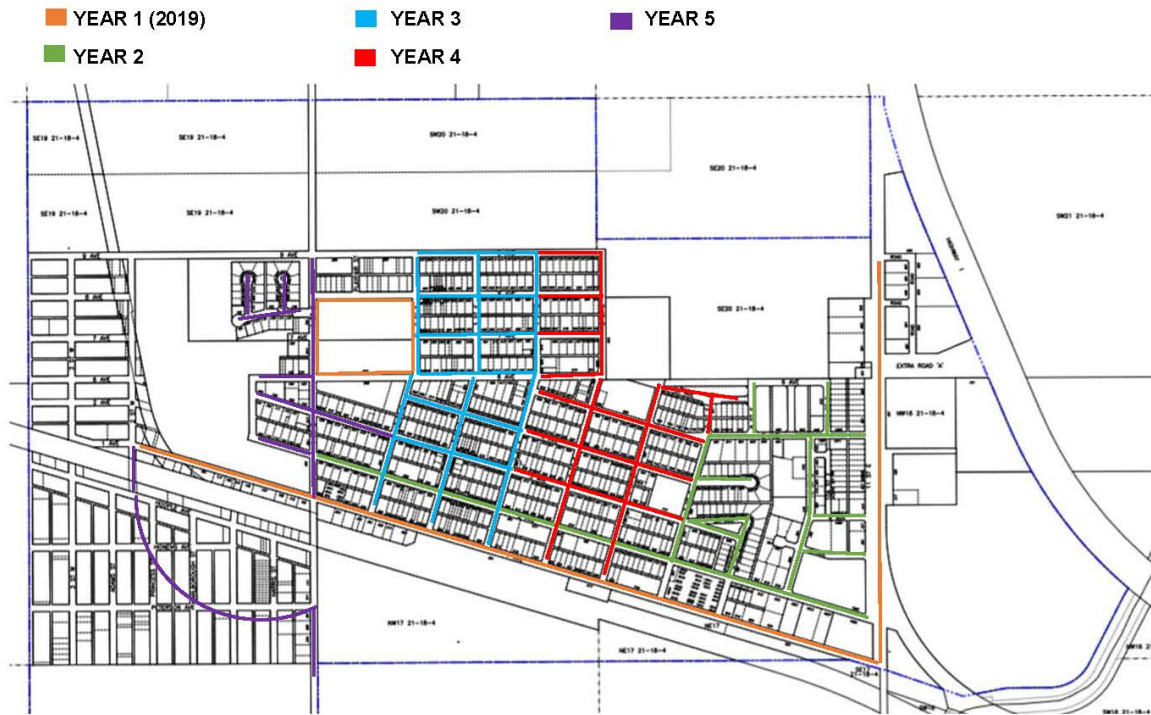
Projected Project Cost	\$7,020M
Provincial Contribution (AMWWP Grant) – Approved	\$3,683M
Municipal Sustainability Initiative Capital Grant – Being processed	\$996,500
ICIP Request	2,340M

We are so thankful for the provincial endorsement and the continued support for this project as this gets us one-step closer to completing this major upgrade.

# BEAUTIFY BASSANO INITIATIVE

We are headed into year 2 of the Beautify Bassano Initiative. Work is underway with residents and business owners in the priority 2 area (outlined below in green) to ensure properties are maintained in accordance with the initiative and Community Standards Bylaw. We saw great success in 2019 and we aim to keep the momentum alive. Additional publications will be available to remind residents of the services offered under this initiative.

## Bylaw Enforcement Priority - Private Lands Clean-up



## UTILITY RATES BYLAW

Utility Rates Bylaw 893/20 came into effect on January 1, 2020. A Public Notice was issued on January 30, 2020 to outline the changes and we advised that additional information would be issued in the bi-monthly newsletter. The focus of this newsletter will be on recycling fees.

Residential Recycling Fee – Bi-monthly	\$7.25
Non-residential Recycling Fee – Bi-monthly	\$9.00

The Town collects \$30,000 per year in recycling fees from residential and non-residential users. This is how the fees are allocated:

- \$5,000 operating grant is provided to BARRA (Bassano and Area Resource Recovery Association)
- \$10,000 is provided to Newell Regional Waste (the main landfill) for recycling
- \$15,000 is allocated towards the implementation of the Beautify Bassano Initiative
  - NEW - \$10,000 for contracted tree removal (dead, damaged, or dangerous public trees)
  - NEW - \$2,500 will be put towards chipping trees from the tree removal program and tree replacement. Wood chips will be available free of charge for residents for yard/garden cover, composting or other personal uses.
  - NEW - \$2,500 will be put towards back alley clean-up/appliance and debris removal.

The new programs will be presented at the upcoming Spring Town Hall Meeting to kick-off year 2 of the Beautify Bassano Initiative.

## Next Council Meeting

March 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. – everyone welcome



### A Message from

Bassano Family And Community Support Services  
RE: Cancellation of Seniors Helping Hands Program

Due to recent funding changes we have elected not to renew of Senior's Helping Hands Program for the 2020 funding year. After careful consideration it was decided not to renew the program as the programming assists less than .01% of residents in Bassano; additionally the non-renewal of the program is also part of an ongoing effort to reduce duplications of services across Alberta.

Alberta Seniors Benefit has provided financial support with senior's home maintenance services and will continue to do so in the future. The Alberta Seniors - Special Needs Assistance for Seniors is a income based benefits which FCSS will still assist all local seniors in accessing, if applicable to their situation. For more information on available support services please visit [www.alberta.ca/seniors-special-needs-assistance.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/seniors-special-needs-assistance.aspx)

We cannot justify the expense of an administering the program when there is a functioning service delivered through the Alberta Government providing this support already. Therefore, the program will be terminated March 31, 2020. **No receipts will be accepted after this date.** If you have any questions, please contact the Family and Community Support Services Director, Victoria Muhlbeier.

Regards,

Victoria Muhlbeier  
403-641-3788 ext 3  
fcss@bassano.ca

## CLIMB ABOARD THE COUNTY OF NEWELL MINI BUS!



The Newell Mini-bus is a service provided by the County of Newell. The Mini-bus service is dedicated to providing door-to-door service to residents within the County of Newell so they can travel to Brooks for a variety of appointments such as; doctor, dentist, hospital, hairdresser, shopping, visiting with friends or relatives, or just for an outing).

The Mini-bus also provides services for youth and adults of any age who have transportation needs.



The Newell Mini-bus will also pick up people in Brooks who would like to visit relatives or friends in the County.

The County of Newell is proud of the service it has provided in the past and wants to continue in the future. Each round trip costs \$12.00 and we encourage all eligible residents to use the service.

### MINI BUS SCHEDULE

Monday: Tilley & Area  
Tuesday: Scandia, Rainier, Cassils & Area every other Tuesday  
Wednesday: Patricia & Gem / Duchess (Alternate Weeks)  
Thursday: Rolling Hills & Area  
Friday: Bassano & Rosemary Area

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REQUEST A PICKUP  
PLEASE CONTACT THE MINI-BUS DRIVERS AT 403-363-7890**

