



**DATE:** September 25, 2020

**TO:** Chair and Members  
Southwest Community Centre and Park Task Force

**FROM:** Brian Hughes, Director Parks Services  
Vicki Armitage Manager of Parks Services

**RE:** **Southwest Community Centre and Park Archeological Update**

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After a delayed start in late June, 2020 due to the pandemic, Wood Inc. has continued with stage 4 archeological investigations on the Southwest Community Center and Park site over the summer. All work was suspended on Aug 10, 2020 as a result of a site protest. Archaeological work has not resumed to date as staff work to resolve site monitoring requirements and engagement responsibilities with Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (MTAC).

The project site will require follow-up work to secure it for the remainder of the season as further archaeological investigations are unlikely to proceed this year. Works are anticipated to continue through 2021 with excavations complete late 2021. Ministry (MTAC) reports and clearance are anticipated in Spring 2022.

Please note that staff investigated the feasibility of locating baseball diamonds at several other parks and open space lands in the City. The development of four ball diamonds and associated parking requires a significant area of not less than 12-15 acres. The area of a 300ft softball diamond is 2.22 acres. The cumulative area of four diamonds is 8.89 acres. Combined with associated parking for 200 vehicles (minimum 1.5 acres), and accounting for grading, storm water, access and surrounding landscaping the area required 12-15 acres or more. The municipality has few options for a development of this size within its existing inventory.

While Steve Brown Sports Complex has three existing diamonds that could be improved, the site is not large enough to add additional amenities or to increase the size of the diamonds beyond the current configuration. Parking is limited. The overall inventory of diamond facilities in the municipality would not be increased to meet growing demands.

Other locations, of sufficient size present different challenges such as having archeological potential, or pre-planned programming that would conflict with ball diamond use.