

Policy statement

Leduc County recognizes the value of community associations who deliver recreational, art, cultural, and sport programs that benefit residents. The County recognizes that volunteers add immense value to services by sharing their time, skills and passion to support their communities.

Definitions

Administration means the staff of Leduc County under the direction of the county manager.

Community association means a not-for-profit volunteer group as recognized by Leduc County that provides a recreational, athletic or cultural service to residents of Leduc County

Community facility means a publicly accessible facility operated by a community association that provides recreational or cultural services to residents of Leduc County.

Council means the duly elected council of Leduc County.

County means the municipal district of Leduc County in the Province of Alberta.

Policy authority

Policy implications:

- CD-01 Community Facility Special Projects
- CD-02 Community Association Grant Funding
- CD-03 Community Facility Operating Funding

Policy standards

The Parks and Recreation department maintains partnerships with many different Community Associations throughout the County. These partnerships create opportunities that mutually benefit both the county and its residents. Below are the standards used to identify how and why Leduc County supports Community Associations.

1. Leduc County actively supports community associations that provide benefits related to the health, wellness, social interaction, and skill development of the County's residents. The County will continue to support both new and established groups in delivering and expanding their programs and services.
2. Leduc County recognizes that the indirect delivery of programs and services creates an opportunity to enhance service levels to better connect our communities, this approach is also the most cost-effective means of service delivery.
3. The Parks and Recreation department uses a community development approach to help build the capacity of community associations. This approach provides the resources and assistance that allows associations to effectively and efficiently deliver services to residents.
4. The following is a list of support available to community associations:
 - Funding - Leduc County is committed to supporting associations financially to provide safe, high-quality facilities and programs. Funding supports are offered through policy in the following ways:

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- Special projects and emergency funding (CD-01) – major renovations, upgrades or unplanned repairs to facilities
 - Community Association funding for recreation and sport/arts and culture (CD-02) – funding for programming, special events and new initiatives
 - Annual facility operating funds (CD-03)– support for operating expenditures, minor repairs and maintenance to facilities
 - Grant assistance – Support associations in their efforts to secure external grant opportunities and in the development of fundraising initiatives in support of capital projects.
 - Training and development – Opportunities will be provided to all associations to build and support our volunteer capacity. Examples may include workshops, resource sharing, grant writing assistance and board development support.
 - Group and shared services – Optional group coverage and discount opportunities will be available for eligible facilities. This may include insurance coverage or utility rate agreements that support operational efficiencies.
 - Program and events support – Through partnerships, administration will assist associations in the planning and delivery of programs and events. Support may include brainstorming ideas, resource lending, identifying needs and potential strategies to host successful community events.
 - Communication – A commitment will be made to regularly communicate with associations to support their programs and services. Efforts will be made to assist associations in communicating with each other through peer support.
 - Program development and strategic planning – Administration will support associations in the development of long-term strategic planning initiatives.
 - Facility planning and management - Administration will support associations in efficiently managing facilities, including safety measures and the development of long-term capital plans.
5. Leduc County recognizes the many groups that actively work to enhance the quality of life for our residents. The County will continue to work directly with these groups to extend and enhance the range, quality, and accessibility of opportunities.

Policy responsibilities

Council responsibilities:

Council will,

- Review and approve this policy.

Administration responsibilities:

Administration will,

- Reference this policy when interacting with community associations.
- Maintain, update and adhere to this policy.
- Continually review service levels to verify that the service quality and connections to community associations are being maintained

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Monitoring and updating

- This policy will be posted on Leduc County's website.
- This policy will be reviewed at least once every four years.

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