



*Celebrating Municipal Excellence*  
**2023 Nomination Form**  
**Deadline:** 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 21, 2023

Nominee Contact Information	
<b>Name of municipality/ municipalities being nominated:</b> <small>(please include the names of all partner municipalities)</small>	Town of Strasbourg
<b>Contact Name:</b>	Jennifer Gritzfeld
<b>Contact role in project:</b>	Chief Administrative Officer
<b>Telephone #:</b>	306-725-3707
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	Box 369, Strasbourg, SK S0G 4V0
<b>E-mail Address:</b>	admin.strasbourg@sasktel.net
<b>Name of Nominated Practice or Project:</b>	Lions Park Revitalization Project
<b>Date of Project or Practice Initiation:</b>	March 2021
<b>Date of Project or Practice Completion:</b> <small>(If ongoing, please indicate)</small>	September 2023
	<b>Ongoing:</b> <input type="checkbox"/>

Nominator Contact Information	
<b>Name:</b>	Jennifer Gritzfeld
<b>Organization:</b>	Town of Strasbourg
<b>Position:</b>	Chief Administrative Officer
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	Box 369, Strasbourg, SK S0G 4V0
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***Please provide as much detail as possible. Winning practices are posted in the Best Practices Library as a reference or resource to others. Nominations that clearly outline the practice and all steps involved have a higher chance of being selected for an award.***

## The Practice

### 1. What issue inspired the nominated project or practice?

The Lions Park Revitalization Project (hereinafter referred to as the "Park") was initiated by the Town of Strasbourg Council and Administration in the spring of 2021 during the heart of the Covid-19 pandemic. Many governmental and non-profit agencies were encouraging municipalities to provide and create safe, outdoor activities and spaces for residents to promote healthy living during that challenging time. In addition to this need and prior to the pandemic, various ratepayers and different interest groups, such as the Strasbourg Recreation Board and Age-Friendly Committee had brought forward ideas to the Council and Administration for enhanced recreational and age-friendly opportunities within the community. The Town was one of the first communities in Saskatchewan to be designated "Age-Friendly" by the Government of Saskatchewan, and to maintain the designation, certain age-friendly initiatives need to happen. The pandemic also brought to light a number of socio-economic issues within the community, including food security and a lack of free public spaces that struggling families, kids, and teens could attend. As part of the Town's Age-Friendly requirements to provide activities and opportunities for all ages and abilities, the Town's Official Community Plan and Strategic Plan mandate to create safe, environmentally-sustainable, outdoor urban environments promoting health and economic opportunities (tourism, job creation, etc.) for their citizens, and to address the growing issue of various socio-economic barriers, the Lions Park Revitalization Project began.

### 2. What has this project or practice done to address the issue?

The Town of Strasbourg has a beautifully-treed 3.5 acre park in the middle of the community that was never utilized, other than for the occasional camping (see before and after pictures). The park also abuts a long-term senior's care facility, the Last Mountain Pioneer Home (LMPH). In consideration of all the varying demographics within the community, including age, gender, ability, socio-economic status, and the need to provide age-friendly initiatives, create recreational spaces required in the Official Community Plan and Strategic Plan, and address socio-economic issues of the community, the Town Council and Administration, with the help of a landscape architect, designed and revitalized our park with the following:

- 2,000 linear feet of eight-foot wide asphalt walking trails, wide enough for wheelchairs, strollers, etc. The walking trails connect to the LMPH to give the senior residents easy access with their wheelchairs to all components of the Park. The walking trails are lit with solar lights hanging in the trees. The walking trails are utilized all year round, as they are plowed in the winter months. They

can be utilized by absolutely anyone at all times.

- Twelve community garden boxes, with ample room for expansion. A community garden group was created to plant vegetables, with the sole purpose of providing all the produce to the local food bank to help address the growing food security issues within the community.
- A 40 foot diameter splash park, with a unique recycled water recirculating system. The water system utilizes less than 100 gallons of water a day, which is an environmentally-friendly, sustainable initiative.
- A three-season barrier-free, gender-neutral washroom.
- A 1,000 square foot semi-enclosed picnic shelter with a natural gas barbecue and custom picnic tables.
- Two large pieces of seniors exercise equipment.
- A 55' x 55' fenced pickleball court, which will be converted to an outdoor skating rink in the winter months.
- A memorial garden with a pond-less waterfall, including new trees, shrubs, and flowers.
- Other features: recycled water irrigation for the grass and new trees, handicap accessible wooden bridges across water runs, low voltage LED security lighting throughout the Park.

The Park accommodates all ages from the splash park utilized by children and teens, to the seniors exercise equipment. All abilities are accommodated as the walking trails and bathrooms are all handicap accessible. The state of the art recycled water system for the splash park, which also feeds into the irrigation system, plus the low voltage lighting and solar pathway lighting lend itself to sustainability for the community. The pickleball court/outdoor rink, the walking trails, and exercise equipment encourages physical activity year round. The park as a whole provides a safe space for all walks of life to attend.

## The Process

***This section should be the longest and most detailed part of your nomination. Include enough information, such as steps, resources accessed, and considerations to support a municipality interested in applying the same project or practice.***

3. Indicate who had a direct role in this project or practice:

- Municipal Council
- Municipal Administration
- Other

*Municipal public works*

4. What was the role of the municipal council and/or municipal staff in this project or practice?

The CAO brought forth an idea to Council in the spring of 2021 that the Park should be revitalized, based on the number of suggestions given to the Administration over the years, plus the availability of grants for the project. Due to Covid, many recreational/park grants were available during that time. Over the course of 2021, Council approved the CAO to develop a plan for the Park and source out funding. The CAO applied for eight different grants and was lucky to receive three large provincial/federal grants which covered 90% of the project costs. The CAO created a working group with members of Council, the Strasbourg Recreation Board, the Last Mountain Pioneer Home, and some community members at large to help with fundraising efforts for the project. The CAO was responsible for applying for all permits, completing land transfers/subdivisions, submitting RFP's, applying for grants and doing follow-up reports, social media releases, design, and overseeing the project. One Council member helped oversee the project in 2022-2023 and liaised with the CAO. The Public Works staff were instrumental in construction and maintenance of a handful of components for the Park, including the recycled water system.

5. Were other groups were involved in developing this project or practice? If so, who were they and what role did they play?

As previously mentioned, a working group was formed to help with fundraising efforts. They assisted the CAO in getting donations towards the project. The Recreation Director of the Last Mountain Pioneer Home sat on the working group and liaised with the CAO in regards to the subdivision and walking trail creation to the LMPH. The Strasbourg Lions Club, a volunteer organization for which the Park is named after, volunteered to build the

community garden boxes and the wooden bridges. The Strasbourg Recreation Board members provided input and help on the construction of the pickleball court and seniors exercise equipment.

#### 6. What resources were involved?

The Town employed a Landscape Architect to help design a concept plan for the Park. The Landscape Architect also designed the memorial garden feature and irrigation system. The washrooms and picnic shelter were designed by a local building architect and plans were created from the design. A local general contractor built both. The splash park and seniors exercise equipment were designed by a local playground equipment specialist, which was built by the company. The pickleball court and walking trails were completed by an asphalt company, and a company specializing in painting pickleball courts was contracted. The Strasbourg Lions Club volunteered their time to build the garden boxes and wooden bridges. A Council member assisted as the "Park Manager" to help oversee the project on the ground level.

#### 7. How was the project or practice developed?

The project developed from the initial concept plan. The concept plan was approved by Council and the working group. Quotes were given for all the components of the park and then a multitude of grants were applied for. The Town was fortunate to receive multiple grants which allowed the project to be constructed. Once the project had received grant funding, the working group solicited donations for the project. In the winter of 2022, RFP's for the project were distributed. Once the RFP's were approved by Council, construction started in June 2022. During the summer and fall months of 2022, the spray park, picnic shelter, washrooms, irrigation, underground infrastructure (water lines, power, gas, etc.), and the memorial garden were constructed. The park was not open to the public at this time. Through the spring and summer of 2023, the recycled water system for the splash park, the community garden boxes, the pickleball court, and the asphalt walking trails were constructed and finalized. For the majority of the summer of 2023, the Park was operational and used by the community. In August 2024, our local MLA Travis Keisig and Premier Scott Moe attended the Park for a ribbon cutting ceremony and Park tour (picture attached to this application). The official grand opening for the Park will be held in June 2024 to coincide with Parks and Recreation Month.

## The Results

### 8. What effect did this project or practice have on the community?

This project was, by no shadow of a doubt, the highlight and talk of the community for two years, especially this past summer when it became operational. The Park was utilized daily, whether it be children at the splash park, barbecues in the picnic shelter, people walking the trails at all hours of the day, pickleball being played and clinics being held, or the community gardens being planted and harvested by volunteers. The children of Town had an enjoyable safe space to hang out throughout the summer months. The residents of the LMPH were able to utilize the trails right from their door. Residents and visitors were able to have picnics, play pickleball, rest and relax, or exercise. While it is tough to determine the exact number of people who have attended or utilized the park, it's probably close to 40-50 per day, if not more. We have had letters written to the Administration and Council thanking us for the beautiful park space, extremely positive comments and shares on Facebook, and just verbal admiration and appreciation for incredible infrastructure investment into the community. The residents whose properties abut the Park space are thrilled by this venture and expect property values to increase. With the creation of the Park, the Town will be hiring a seasonal full-time employee to maintain the space beginning in the spring of 2024. As previously mentioned, our local MLA and Premier attended our Park during a constituency tour because of how successful the project turned out and to celebrate the funding received from the provincial government.

### 9. Was a formal evaluation done after the project or practice was completed? Please explain.

A formal evaluation was not completed after the project was completed as the Council and Administration felt that the letters of recognition, the daily utilization, the consistent verbal accolades, the amount of donations given to the Park, and the visit by governmental dignitaries held its own merit and validation for us. The Park is still constantly evolving and will continue to evolve with the recommendations and suggestions by citizens and visitors. For the Council and Administration, this is an ongoing evaluation of how we can improve or enhance the space, as this truly was a community-driven project. The ongoing feedback helps us to troubleshoot current issues, as well as plan for the growth of the Park.

## 10. Describe any challenges faced.

As with any project, we faced numerous challenges, many of them financial and construction/weather related. The original budget for the project increased by almost 35% due to inflationary issues from the time the grants were applied for to the time they were awarded. The scope of the project increased as various issues came to light that were not originally part of the plan. As such, more fundraising was necessary to cover cost overruns and the Town had to adjust their capital budget to accommodate any shortfalls.

As well, managing several different contractors throughout the duration of the project posed its own challenges, as we had to continually ensure the work was completed in a timely manner as per the requirements of the grants/funding. Because of the sheer number of individual components of the Park, timing the contractors for construction and organizing them in sequence was a massive undertaking and challenge.

## Lessons Learned

### 11. What lessons were learned and what would you recommend doing differently?

One of the biggest lessons was underestimating the original scope of the project and how much work it was on the CAO and Foreman to organize the multiple contractors and keep the flow of work happening in a timely fashion. We did eventually have one of our Council members oversee the project as a type of project manager which alleviated some of the workload for the staff. Going forward, for any future projects of this magnitude, we would recommend having an experienced third-party project manager initially from the outset to relieve the burden on the staff.





Before



After























