

To: David Creery, Chief Administrative Officer

From: Brian Connors, Director of Parks & Recreation

Re: Recreation Program Registration for Non-City Residents

AIM

That City Council approves a policy that provides for a time-limited priority opportunity for City residents to register for City-operated recreational programs.

BACKGROUND

Registration for City-operated recreational programs has begun to encounter oversubscription. As the population continues to grow and program spaces continue to be squeezed, this challenge is expected to escalate. Previously, there was no need to differentiate between city residents and non-city residents, as the program capacities were sufficient. However, this situation has now changed, particularly regarding city camps and swimming lessons.

COMMENTS

The proposed policy aims to grant Woodstock residents the first opportunity to register for the City's recreation programs and camps, which are increasingly becoming oversubscribed. This policy would allow those who contribute taxes toward these facilities and programs to be prioritized in their usage. Under this new policy, Woodstock residents would benefit from a 7-day advance registration period before the registration is opened to all others.

Between July 2024 and July 2025, camps and recreation programs had a participation rate of 17% for non-residents, while aquatics programs had a non-resident registration rate of 23%.

The only notable exception to the delayed registration opening for non-residents applies to aquatic leadership programs, including first aid and High-5 programs. These programs often rely on non-resident participants to meet the necessary enrollment levels to proceed and, as of now, are not oversubscribed.

Staff will continue to monitor registration numbers for non-city residents and, after one year, will consider the implementation of additional fees for non-residents participating in these programs.

ATTACHMENTS

2024-2025 Resident/Non-Resident Registration Summary
Policy PR18 Recreation Program Registration for Non-City Residents

RECOMMENDATION

That Woodstock City Council approve the policy—Recreation Program Registration for Non-City Residents.

Authored by: Brian Connors, Director of Parks & Recreation

Approved by: David Creery, P. Eng, MBA, Chief Administrative Officer