

CYPRESS COUNTY

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COUNTY EXCITED FOR IRVINE COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE (LIBRARY)

DUNMORE – When Cypress County released its strategic plan in 2022, the overarching theme was offering a "highly desirable rural experience... with supportive communities and families."

Part of that policy statement means offering more amenities to ensure sustainable growth and viability of our communities.

The Irvine Community Resource Centre project's roots stretch as far back as 2017 when the first set of public consultation began. The feedback was clear—Irvine's current library needs an upgrade.

Other feedback opportunities followed, including:

- 2017 Irvine Area Structure Plan
- 2018 Resident Satisfaction Survey
- 2019 Recreation and Culture Master Plan
- 2021 Quality-of-life survey sent out to residents in Irvine
- April 2022 Open house held at the current library

The plan for the new resource centre, approved by council in November, is a grant-funded \$1.5 million, 3,600 square foot site with parking, a board room, library, playground, and park space.

The centre will provide opportunities for community groups to meet, engage, and collaborate. It will also be used to run educational programs and provide better opportunities for the hamlet of Irvine and area community.

The zoning of the park has not changed and predates the hamlet's incorporation into Cypress County in 1986. This land use district accommodates a range of institutional, educational, and recreational uses that support the public needs of residents and businesses at the local, neighbourhood, and county-wide levels.

The county considered many locations and made the determination for the sustainability and viability of the Irvine Community Resource Centre to be located on the site of the current Lions Park.

An upgraded Woodward Memorial Park will be part of the new resource centre. Cypress County is working collaboratively with the Irvine Lions Club to find a suitable location for an additional park.

The county is excited to see this project become a reality.

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For more information, please contact communications coordinator Sean Rooney at sean.rooney@cypress.ab.ca or 403-526-2888 ext. 312.

