

City Council

Information Items

May 7, 2021

Items for information is a weekly publication for the public and members of City Council. Members of City Council may request that any item appearing on this publication be placed onto the next available Committee of the Whole meeting for discussion.

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Information Report



Service Area	Public Services
Date	Friday, May 7, 2021
Subject	Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

This report presents the work completed to date on the vision, values, and goals of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. It outlines the project status and next steps to complete the project.

Key Findings

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan establishes a vision for future-ready parks and recreation:

'Parks and recreation are essential to everyday life in Guelph. To be future-ready we need services that are sustainable, inclusive, adaptable, and have a built in ability to respond to a growing and diverse community. We need to connect people to each other, active living, and the environment.'

This vision strongly aligns to the Strategic Plan priorities of 'Sustaining our future,' 'Working together for our future,' and 'Building our future.' The Parks and Recreation Master Plan helps to achieve the vision through six goals that will be supported by future actions and strategies currently in development:

1. We nurture a healthy and vibrant community.
2. All people can participate in recreation.
3. Recreation facilities and parks are welcoming and meaningful places for all people.
4. Infrastructure is maintained, sustainable, and responsive to community changes.
5. We support the protection, restoration, and management of the natural environment.
6. We work together with our community.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is built on a foundation of analysis and community engagement. The project team has conducted two rounds of engagement both in-person and virtually since the project launched, and has collected over 1,600 responses to date. The next round of engagement is scheduled for the second and third quarters (Q2 and Q3) of 2021.

Financial Implications

Full financial implications of this plan will be presented in the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2021 as part of the final Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The project remains within budget.

Report

About the Parks and Recreation Master Plan

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan (PRMP) is a future-looking document that guides the actions of the Parks Department and Recreation Department for the next ten years and beyond.

The last Recreation, Parks and Culture Strategic Plan was updated in 2009. It was provided to Council as a background document as justification for changes to the Official Plan Policies as part of Official Plan Amendment 48 (OPA 48) (approved by Council in 2012 and included in Official Plan March 2018 Consolidation). An updated plan is needed because legislation, community needs, demographics, best practices, priorities, trends, and policies are continually changing and evolving.

Specifically, the plan will identify needs and opportunities related to service and infrastructure delivery, and set direction for the future. The plan will reflect community values and help define the services the City will offer the community. The established direction will help prioritize funding and resources to achieve the vision for the future.

This report summarizes the foundation work completed to date and outlines the next steps in the process.

Foundation for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan

The foundation for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is the City's vision, mission, and values included in the [Strategic Plan](#) – a plan for Guelph's future. Parks and recreation services relate most closely to the priorities of 'Sustaining our future,' 'Working together for our future,' and 'Building our future.' The master plan also draws inspiration directly from the engagement efforts of the [Community Plan](#), relating most closely to the 'We play and explore,' theme.

In addition to Guelph's Strategic and Community Plans, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan aligns with the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association's (CPRA) '[Framework for Recreation in Canada](#),' which is the guiding document for public recreation providers in Canada. The document provides a foundation and shared vision across Canada for the value and impact that recreation has on individuals and communities. It is primarily meant for recreation providers and practitioners to guide individual community policies in a coordinated and evidence-based approach.

The document presents a renewed definition of recreation:

Recreation is the experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative, and spiritual pursuits that enhance individual and community wellbeing.

It also presents an overall vision for recreation:

We envision a Canada in which everyone is engaged in meaningful, accessible recreation experiences that fosters: individual wellbeing, community wellbeing, and the wellbeing of our natural and built environments.

Draft Vision, Values, and Goals for Parks and Recreation in Guelph

The first step on the path to a successful Parks and Recreation Master Plan is to establish a vision for the future with long-range goals and objectives. Below is the draft vision, corresponding values, and goals for Guelph's desired future for parks and recreation. These three pieces – the vision, values, and goals – will help form the foundation of the updated Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The draft vision, values, goals, and actions will be presented for community input in Q2/Q3, 2021.

Draft Vision

The vision of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan draws inspiration directly from the engagement efforts of the Community Plan (May 2019) and is built on the priorities of the Strategic Plan. Through engagement specific to Parks and Recreation, the following draft vision provides a picture of our desired future:

Parks and recreation are essential to everyday life in Guelph. To be future-ready we need services that are sustainable, inclusive, adaptable, and have a built-in ability to respond to a growing and diverse community. We need to connect people to each other, active living, and the environment.

Draft Values

Building on Guelph's corporate values, the Parks and Recreation Departments' service delivery is based on six guiding principles:

- participation and inclusion of all citizens
- well maintained parks and facilities
- effective management and sustainability of resources
- fairness and equity
- healthy and engaged community
- protection of the environment

Draft Goals

From these values, the following draft goals provide general statements of long-term results needed to achieve the vision. After each goal is a reference to which priority of the Strategic Plan it most closely supports.

- We nurture a healthy and vibrant community. Actions under this heading will be about health, social connection, and physical activity: 'Working together for our future.'
- All people can participate in recreation. Actions under this heading will be about inclusion, removing barriers, and accessibility: 'Working together for our future.'
- Recreation facilities and parks are welcoming and meaningful places for all people. Actions under this heading will be about how we can make quality spaces and places: 'Building our future.'

- Infrastructure is maintained, sustainable, and responsive to community changes. Actions under this heading will be about securing new infrastructure and maintaining existing infrastructure: 'Building our future.'
- We support the protection, restoration, and management of the natural environment. Actions will be about environment initiatives and supporting other corporate policies: 'Sustaining our future.'
- We work together with our community. Actions under this heading will be about a modern government, customer service, communication, and partnerships: 'Working together for our future.'

Actions and strategies are currently underway to support these goals. Using the foundation of the 2009 Recreation, Culture, and Parks Master Plan, new actions will take advantage of new approaches, legislation, and guidelines in parks and recreation planning. Specifically, the plan will define needs and identify what we should be providing, including service standards for recreation and parks facilities and services, where they should be located, when they will be required, and how they should be funded.

Project Status

City staff have been providing quarterly updates to Council through the 'Planning for our Future: Guelph's Master Plans Update' process. The last update was provided [March 12, 2021](#).

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is well underway, and the project team is working on the draft master plan. As part of the master plan, a full financial and resource strategy will be completed to help guide the Parks and Recreation Departments' work for the next ten years.

Community engagement is planned for Q2/Q3, 2021. In the next phase, the community and stakeholders will review the plan framework presented in this report. Potential actions and strategies of the plan will also be included for the community to help prioritize which ones to tackle first.

Recreation, parks, and trails continue to be critical to community and individual wellbeing during COVID-19. City staff are monitoring community feedback and following relevant studies about park use during COVID-19.

The project is anticipated to be presented to Council in Q4 2021.

Financial Implications

Full financial implications of this plan will be presented in Q4 2021 as part of the final Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The project remains within budget.

Consultations

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is built on a foundation of analysis and community engagement. The project team has conducted two rounds of engagement both in-person and virtually since the project launched, and has collected over 1,600 responses to-date. Summaries of feedback can be found on the [project webpage](#).

Our final opportunity for community engagement is planned for Q2/Q3 2021. The community will have an opportunity to review the draft vision, values, goals, and

actions, and help prioritize them. Focus meetings with Council will be scheduled for Q3 2021.

Strategic Plan Alignment

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan uses the vision, mission, values, and priorities of the Strategic Plan as the foundation to the plan. Work to date strongly aligns to the Strategic Plan priorities of 'Sustaining our future,' 'Working together for our future' and 'Building our future.'

Attachments

None

Departmental Approval

Luke Jefferson, Manager, Park and Trail Development

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Intergovernmental Submission



Safe Restart Transit Funding Advocacy

Ministry/Department

Ministry of Transportation

Date Submitted

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

Summary

The attached submission is an advocacy letter signed by Mayor Guthrie for Minister of Transportation the Honourable Caroline Mulroney requesting flexibility to keep expired Phase 1 and 2 Safe Restart Transit funding for use as needs arise throughout 2021.

Lead

Mayor's Office and Intergovernmental Services with support from Finance and Guelph Transit

Attachments

Attachment-1 April 27 2021 Guelph Safe Restart Transit Funding LTR FNL

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April 27, 2021

The Honourable Caroline Mulroney
Minister of Transportation
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1Z8

Dear Minister Mulroney,

RE: Flexibility for continued use of Phase 1 and 2 Safe Restart Transit
Funding throughout 2021

The Safe Restart Transit funding your government provided has been tremendously important in enabling Guelph Transit to continue delivering service to transit users while remaining financially whole throughout the pandemic.

Though we are deeply appreciative of emergency funding received to date, the lack of flexibility around funds received for use during the different eligibility periods and phases of Safe Restart transit funding is now creating challenges for the City of Guelph. Our latest projections indicate that Phase 3 funding for Guelph Transit will fall short by around \$1.8M in 2021. Despite this funding gap, the City may also be required to potentially repay the province up to \$5.4M in unused Safe Restart Transit funds from Phase 1 and 2 given their March 31st expiration date. In our case, some of these funds went unused due to COVID-related procurement delays that prevented the City from incurring eligible expenses originally projected for early 2021 until after March 31st. The combination of having to return up to \$5.4 million in funding, and falling short by \$1.8 million for Phase 3, creates a significant impact on Guelph Transit that the province could easily mitigate.

I join Ontario's Big City Mayors and the Ontario Public Transit Association in writing to ask the Province to enable us to keep unused funds that expired on March 31st so that we have the flexibility to use them as needs arise in 2021. This would enable us to meet the goals of continuing to provide Guelph Transit service and keep the local transit system whole as

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the pandemic continues longer than most of us imagined it would into 2021. In making this recommendation I also point to the success of Safe Restart Agreement operating funding, whereby the City is given the flexibility to put funds into an account for future use with the understanding that we will have to repay any unused dollars once the pandemic subsides. This approach has kept municipal operations whole during an unpredictable and ever-changing pandemic. Providing this same flexibility to Safe Restart Agreement Transit funding would have the same positive impact.

Thank you for considering this request and for your responsiveness to the needs of municipalities and our transit systems to date. I would be happy to discuss this matter further with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cam Guthrie', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cam Guthrie
Mayor

Cc: The Hon. Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Mike Schreiner, MPP Guelph

Intergovernmental Consultation



Environmental Assessment Modernization Consultation

Ministry/Department

Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks

Consultation Deadline

Friday, May 28, 2021

Summary

The Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks is consulting municipal partners on the modernization of the environmental assessment program in Ontario.

Proposed Form of Input

City staff will prepare a written submission in time for the consultation deadline.

Rationale

The City's capital projects, and other environmental services-related initiative, are subject to Ontario's environmental assessment process. The City therefore has an interest in influencing provincial policy and decision-making in this area.

Lead

Engineering and Transportation Services with input from Environmental Services and Intergovernmental Services

Link to Ministry Website

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/modernizing-ontarios-environmental-assessment-program>

Contact Information

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Intergovernmental Consultation



Public Sector Accounting Board Conceptual Framework Revision Consultation

Ministry/Department

This consultation is being held by the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB). PSAB is an independent body created to serve the public interest as it relates to establishing accounting standards for the public sector. PSAB works closely with provincial and federal ministries of finance amongst other key stakeholders.

Consultation Deadline

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Summary

The Public Sector Accounting Board is consulting on a new Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting in the Public Sector. Notably, there is a broad-based advocacy push for PSAB to recognize natural assets as part of financial reporting.

Proposed Form of Input

Staff propose to respond to the consultation by endorsing a joint consultation response prepared by the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation in partnership with KPMG and the Municipal Natural Assets Initiative.

Rationale

As a progressive, green city aiming to be a carbon neutral community by 2050, the City of Guelph has an interest in supporting environmentally friendly accounting policy.

Lead

Finance

Link to Ministry Website

<https://www.frascanada.ca/en/public-sector/documents/psab-ed-conceptual-framework>

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**THE CORPORATION OF
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April 30, 2021

Honourable Premier Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queens Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

Sent via Email: premier@ontario.ca

Re: Provincial Hospital Funding of Major Capital Equipment

The Town of Perth is requesting that further consideration be given to having the province be financially responsible for the replacement costs associated with all major capital equipment in hospitals, as municipalities across the province are facing major shortfalls in meeting their financial obligations. As set out in their asset management plans and cannot afford to directly absorb the financial responsibility for the replacement costs of the hospitals' major capital equipment without jeopardizing their financial sustainability.

As well, if the province is unwilling to assume the full responsibility for funding local hospitals completely, the Town of Perth requests that the province must develop a legislative framework as to how counties and municipalities should best address the financial shortfalls facing hospitals throughout Ontario, specifically the funding of major capital equipment;

Sincerely,


John Fenik
Mayor of Perth

cc: Ontario Municipalities
AMO – amo@amo.on.ca

Aged to Perfection!