2020-132 Attachment-1 Parks and Recreation Master Plan and Guelph Trail Master Plan progress summary

Parks and Recreation Master Plan update and Guelph Trail Master Plan update

2017/2019-Q2 2021; 70% complete

Recent progress/achievements to date

- The second annual Canadian City Parks Report was released in July by the nonprofit group Park People. The report highlights the trends and challenges facing city parks across Canada. Guelph's city profile is included in the 2020 report and highlights city achievements.
- The draft master plans are well into development. The long-term financial and resource strategies are also in progress and are in line with the City's Strategic Plan.
- A community engagement plan for our final opportunity for community feedback is in progress. A summary of phase one and two engagement is posted on the project webpage.

New opportunities or relevant challenges

- Parks and trails have been critical to community and individual wellbeing during COVID-19. We are monitoring community feedback and following relevant studies about park and trail use during COVID-19. The Park People recently posted highlights of a Canadian national survey and Statistics Canada also published data about Canadians' access and use of parks.
- We have received letters and community interest about the Trans Canada Trail Route Investigation. Staff are planning to engage interested stakeholders as part of our overall master plan engagement in Q4 2020.

Next steps

- Our final opportunity for community engagement is planned for Q4 2020. The community will have an opportunity to review the draft recommendations and help prioritize which ones are the most important to tackle first. Council will also have an opportunity to provide feedback on the plan; further details to come.
- The project is proceeding with a schedule adjustment and modified work plans as staff balance ongoing work with new community needs resulting from COVID-19. A revised schedule is posted on the city's webpage. Staff anticipate project completion in Q2 2021.