



Subject: Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Report Number: RCP 24-035

Department: Recreation, Culture and Parks Department

Submitted by: Andrea Greenway, Acting Director of Recreation, Culture & Parks

Meeting Type: Council Meeting

Meeting Date: Monday, August 12, 2024

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT report titled RCP-24-035 titled “Parks and Recreation Master Plan” be received as information; and
- B. THAT the proposed Parks and Recreation Master Plan attached to Report RCP-24-035 addressing parks and recreation needs in Tillsonburg over the next ten years be adopted; and
- C. THAT the Director of Recreation, Culture and Parks be directed to develop an implementation strategy for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to be presented to Council for consideration as part of the Town’s annual budget process.

BACKGROUND

In the 2023 budget process, \$200,000 was allocated to RCP for development of Parks, Cemeteries and Recreation Master Plan, partially funded from Development Charges. The previous Parks, Recreation and Cultural Strategic Master Plan was prepared in 2011 and had become outdated.

At the June 14, 2023 Council meeting, the creation of the Plan was awarded to Thinc Design by the following resolution:

Resolution #2023-254

Moved By: Deputy Mayor Beres

Seconded By: Councillor Parker

- A. *THAT report titled RCP 23-26, Parks, Cemeteries and Recreation Master Plan RFP Award be received as information; and*
- B. *THAT the RFP be awarded to Thinc Design for \$78,309.41 (including non-recoverable HST).*

Carried

Following the project award, the following consultation and feedback process took place:

- Council and staff interviews – July 2-6, 2023
- Stakeholder interviews – July 25 – 27, 2023
- Public open house – August 9, 2023
- User group survey July 31- August 14, 2023
- Public online survey – August 8 – 29, 2023
- Telephone survey – week of August 7, 2023
- Presentation of survey results to advisory committees – September 26, 2023
- Draft presentation information session to advisory committees - December 12, 2023
- Draft presentation to Council - January 23, 2024
- Public online draft review - June 10 – 24, 2024

The final Town of Tillsonburg Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be presented at the August 12, 2024 Council meeting.

DISCUSSION

The 2024-2034 Town of Tillsonburg Parks and Recreation Master Plan has been prepared by Thinc Design and is intended to guide the provision of parks, cemetery and recreation services over the next 10 years. The plan identifies needs and priorities as well as suggested timing for implementation of recommendations.

The master plan was developed in phases. In the first two phases the consultants established the current context of the parks and recreation department and undertook extensive community consultation. In phase three a needs assessment was completed taking into account council, staff and community feedback as well as facility use and program participation data, reviewing related plans and studies and reviewing current recreation trends. Phase four was the final phase in which the draft plan was presented and revised with contributions from council, committees, and staff.

The final draft was posted on the Town's website for public feedback. 11 residents provided feedback, the majority of which was focused on increasing the number of pickleball facilities in Town (pop up and permanent). There was a concern around naturalizing areas around Lake Lisgar and the plan addresses that this area should not be naturalized and should be maintained within parks operations. The manager of Parks and Facilities was in agreement with this feedback. One other response was regarding adding an indoor playground for young children. While the plan does not include this addition, it might be an opportunity for a private business in the future if there is community interest.

The final draft of the Town of Tillsonburg Parks and Recreation Master Plan is attached to this report for review. Staff have reviewed the final draft and support the plan being adopted by Council. The Director of Recreation, Culture and Parks will develop an implementation strategy to be presented to Council for consideration as part of the Town's annual budget process.

CONSULTATION

Recreation and Sports Advisory Committee, Beautification, Parks and Cemeteries Advisory Committee, Manager of Parks and Facilities, Acting Manager of Recreation Programs & Services, Thinc Design

FINANCIAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE

There are no financial impacts to adopting the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Implementation of recommendations will be included in future budget years, beginning in 2025.

CORPORATE GOALS

How does this report support the corporate goals identified in the Community Strategic Plan?

- Lifestyle and amenities
- Customer service, communication and engagement
- Business attraction, retention and expansion
- Community growth
- Connectivity and transportation
- Not Applicable

Does this report relate to a specific strategic direction or project identified in the Community Strategic Plan? Please indicate section number and/or any priority projects identified in the plan.

Goal – The Town of Tillsonburg will accommodate and support sustainable growth.

Strategic Direction – N/A

Priority Project – *Immediate Term* – Recreation Master Plan

ATTACHMENTS

2024-07-26 Town of Tillsonburg Parks and Recreation Master Plan