



OAKVILLE

REPORT

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING DATE: MAY 2, 2017

FROM: Recreation and Culture Department
Parks and Open Space Department
Oakville Public Library

DATE: April 25, 2017

SUBJECT: **Five Year Review of the 2012 Parks, Recreation and Library Facilities Master Plan**

LOCATION: NA

WARD: Town wide

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RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the April 25, 2017 report from the Recreation and Culture Department, Parks and Open Space Department and Oakville Public Library entitled: *Five Year Review of the 2012 Parks, Recreation and Library Facilities Master Plan Review* be received; and
2. That the *Five Year Review of the 2012 Parks, Recreation and Library Facilities Master Plan* dated April, 2017 (attached as Appendix A) be approved.
3. That staff develop and report back on a Parks and Open Space Strategy.

KEY FACTS:

- On October 29, 2012, Council approved the 2012 Parks, Recreation and Library Facilities Master Plan.
- The town's practice is to review Master Plans in five year increments to ensure that the recommendations remain relevant, taking into account key changes that have occurred in recent years such as changes in trends, demographics and community needs as well as any changes to legislation or policy that affect community facility planning and provision.
- In 2017, the Review of the 2012 Facilities Master Plan was completed.
- The Master Plan Review makes 69 recommendations, many reflecting the changes in demographics and trends.
- The financial implications of the Master Plan Review will be referred to the capital planning process and the annual capital budget process.

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BACKGROUND:

On October 29, 2012, Council approved the 2012 Parks, Recreation and Library Facilities Master Plan. Focusing on facilities specifically, the Master Plan was a full new plan that set out the requirements for all community facilities delivered through the Recreation and Culture Department, Parks and Open Space and the Oakville Public Library. The plan also informed the development of the Development Charges Study.

The town's practice is to review Master Plans in five year increments to ensure that the recommendations remain relevant, taking into account key changes that have occurred in recent years such as changes in trends, demographics and community needs as well as any changes to legislation or policy that affect community facility planning and provision. To that end, in 2016 staff initiated the five year review of the 2012 Facilities Master Plan. It should be noted that this study utilized the 2016 census data for the overall population and the 2011 census for age cohorts. The Region will be updating the Best Planning Estimates as part of its Official Plan Review process and these should be available for the next full Master Plan scheduled for 2021/2022.

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

A presentation on the Master Plan Review and its recommendations will be made at the Special Council Meeting of May 2. Overall, the Master Plan Review makes 69 recommendations. The following is a brief summary of any new or updated recommendations/

Recreation Facilities

- **South East Oakville Community Centre**

The 2012 Master Plan recommended a community centre of approximately 40,000 – 45,000 square feet. The 2017 review confirms a preliminary concept of a multi-generational facility of 40,000 - 45,000 square feet of space containing an indoor pool, gymnasium, multi-purpose rooms, and space for intergenerational programming. Given the interest expressed by area residents, as well as the mature nature of this community, it is recommended that general community and intergenerational programming be a focus of this facility. With the recent additions of fitness centres at QEPCCC and Trafalgar Park Community Centre, consideration should be given to the inclusion of a fitness centre and walking track within the design. The indoor pool component should focus on a 25-metre training/fitness pool that will serve as a replacement for Centennial Pool. Furthermore, given the focus on intergenerational programming at the South East Community Centre, the Review suggests that the town may consider the provision of a therapeutic pool to complement the rectangular tank.

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- **North Park Community Centre**

This facility is anticipated to consist of an indoor aquatic complex, fitness/active living centre, dedicated seniors' and youth space, multi-use programming space (including one or more gymnasiums), and a branch library. The Community Centre would be attached to the existing Sixteen Mile Sports Complex (quad pad arena) in North Park. Additionally, a new secondary school is expected to be developed directly south of the site.

The 2012 plan recommended the community centre be constructed in 2018, however, slower than anticipated growth has delayed it until 2026. At the present time, it is anticipated that the area will have a sufficient population to support the construction of a community centre in or around 2026.

- **Indoor Pools**

In 2012, a town-wide target of one pool tank per 32,000 population was established and that future need could be accommodated within the proposed community centre in North Park. No additional indoor pools will be required. The Master Plan review does not support the provision of a 50 metre pool however, supports the provision of one therapeutic pool as a unique public amenity in Oakville that would enhance aquatic programming for all residents, especially older adults, young children, and persons with disabilities.

- **Arenas**

Overall there has been a decline in ice sports, nationally, provincially and in Oakville. While Oakville will continue to grow, the youth and young mid-life adult population will not be growing at the same rate. Therefore it is recommended that the town review the potential long-term demand for additional ice pads as part of the next five year Master Plan.

- **Older Adult Centres**

At the same time as the older adult population is growing, their recreation needs are changing and the town will need to take steps to ensure that facility provision stays relevant. The 2012 plan suggested that the town consider expanding the Sir John Colborne Centre and provide dedicated space in the Sixteen Mile Community Centre. The 2017 review recommends that these actions be delayed until further space needs for older adults be reassessed through internal reviews after the new Trafalgar Park Community Centre is in operation. The Review further recommends that opportunities be sought to maximize existing older adult spaces in the evenings and weekends.

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- **Youth Centres**

The Recreation and Culture department should continue to review the viability of the Bronte Youth Centre along with alternative service options for youth outreach in the area and should continue to pursue the provision of a Youth Centre in North East Oakville.

- **Outdoor Community Event Spaces**

With the ongoing growth in the number and complexity of events delivered by both the community and the town, the town's amenities suitable for events are becoming stretched. The town should secure and establish a purpose-designed event space to serve growing community interest in special events and spaces for community gatherings.

- **Outdoor Aquatics Strategy**

Parks and Open Space/Recreation & Culture should collaborate on an Outdoor Aquatic Strategy that would examine both outdoor pools and splash pads.

- **Soccer Fields**

Since 2007 there has been a steady decline in soccer participation and therefore there is a decrease in the overall number of soccer fields required at build-out.

- **Pickleball**

Pickleball is now an emerging sport and with the number of older adults expected to increase at a faster rate than the overall population, investment in courts through either dedicated facilities or conversion of existing tennis courts is warranted.

- **Outdoor Adult Fitness**

Based on current trends, the town should consider reintroducing adult fitness equipment to the Oakville parks system through a pilot project in a community park or well-travelled trails.

Active Parkland

- **Parkland Acquisition**

As development occurs, parkland needs should continue to be assessed on an area specific basis to ensure that there are local parks within a reasonable walking distance, particularly in areas with young families or seniors. Neighbourhood level parks should continue to be acquired and developed to service new residential development in areas of intensification, and

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considering proximity and access to existing parks, the proposed form of development and its target market in terms of demographics, and the recommendations of the plan with respect to area-specific recreation needs.

To inform future area planning, it is recommended the Town complete a *Parks and Open Space Strategy* that further assesses issues and opportunities for acquisition and refines the appropriate quantity and quality of parks and public spaces in future development areas and recommends methods of acquiring or securing access to lands for parks and public spaces in areas of intensification. This strategy will also include the Parks Needs Assessment as required by Bill 73. This study should be undertaken in close collaboration with the Planning department in order to ensure proper population and demographic forecasts for growth areas are considered.

- **Conveyance of Parkland**

In areas of development/redevelopment, Section 42 of the Planning Act provides municipalities with authority to require either the conveyance of parkland or cash-in-lieu payment. In the case of commercial or industrial, it is 2% of the land and in all other cases it is 5%. However, the Planning Act also authorizes the use of an alternative rate of 1 ha per 300 residential units. Bill 73 changed the calculation of cash-in-lieu paid in respect of the alternate provision standard to 1 ha per 500 residential units. When the dedication is in the form of land, the alternative rate of 1 ha per 300 units remains applicable. This effectively places a higher value on the taking of land for parks instead of cash which is not always practical in areas of dense, vertical development.

The Town is presently in the process of preparing updated policies to address Bill 73 within Livable Oakville. Within the context of a *Parks and Open Space Strategy*, further study is required to investigate the opportunities and constraints of imposing the allowable cash-in-lieu provision of 1ha/500 units on development within the town's, growth areas, or impacts to the amount and types of parks in growth areas.

Library Facilities

- **Bronte and QEPCCC**

The introduction of an "incubator Library" at QEPCCC including Hold Lockers, Awe Stations and Friendly Finds has been very well received by the community. The Master Plan Review recommends that opportunities to expand this service be explored. Based on the success of QEPCCC and the opportunities it provides, as well as key service indicators for the Bronte area, it is suggested that a Library branch in Bronte is not warranted.

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- **Palermo and North Park Branches**
The 2012 Master Plan recommended branches in both Palermo and Sixteen Mile. The 2017 Review supports these recommendations, however, given that the OPL is currently below the established provision level and its provision rate is lagging and the anticipated time frame for the construction of these facilities is well into the future, the Review recommends that temporary sites and service options be considered.
- **Trafalgar Corridor**
In 2012 a recommendation was to develop a new library in the Trafalgar Corridor north of Dundas Street. The 2017 five year review recommends a reassessment of this branch in the long term.
- **Central Branch**
Major changes to the Central branch are being proposed through the Downtown Cultural Hub project. These are still under discussion and the 2017 Review recommends that the town continue to pursue the redevelopment of the branch.

It should be noted that the OPL Board has reviewed and endorsed the Master Plan Review and passed the following resolution:

That the recommendations associated with library facilities and services within the Parks, Recreation and Library Facilities Master Plan, be endorsed and provided to Council, subject to the following:

- a) that staff continue to explore ways to expand the Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre (QEPCCC) library services for the Bronte area, as the development of a stand-alone library branch in Bronte is not a priority at this time; and
- b) that staff review an interim solution for library branches in the Sixteen Mile area and Palermo, which is community based, and develop permanent branches prior to 2020.

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CONSIDERATIONS:

(A) PUBLIC

Recreation, Parks, and Library facilities all serve the entire community. All residents will benefit from the provision of facilities that meet both current and future needs.

(B) FINANCIAL

The financial impacts of the Parks, Recreation and Library Facilities Master Plan Review will be referred to the capital planning process and annual capital budget development. In addition, the Review will inform the development of the Development Charges Study.

(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS

All appropriate departments were consulted in the review process. These included, Recreation and Culture, Parks and Open Space, Planning and Financial Planning.

(D) CORPORATE AND/OR DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC GOALS

This report addresses the corporate strategic goal to:

- To be accountable in everything we do
- To enhance our social environment
- To enhance our natural environment
- To continuously improve programs and services
- To be innovative in everything we do

The Review further supports the Recreation and Culture department's strategic goals of:

- Increased access
- Enhanced community capacity
- Quality programs, services and facilities

(E) COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

The four pillars of sustainability are addressed as follows:

Social sustainability through spaces that promote community engagement, physical activity and social interaction;

Economic sustainability through the efficient management of infrastructure;

Environmental sustainability through incorporating energy management initiatives and through the protection of our environments; and

Cultural sustainability through spaces that foster creativity and embrace diversity.

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APPENDICES:

Appendix A: Five Year Review of the 2012 Parks, Recreation and Library
Facilities Master Plan

Prepared by:

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Submitted by:

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