

**ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
MEMORANDUM**

TO: MAYOR J. LEHMAN AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: R. SUTTON, P. ENG., DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

**NOTED: D. FRIARY, ACTING GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH
MANAGEMENT**

M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**RE: PARKS AND RECREATION STRATEGIC MASTER PLAN UPDATE – OUTDOOR
RECREATION FACILITY STUDY (FILE: A09-LE)**

DATE: JUNE 25, 2018

The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide an update to members of Council on the Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan.

Recreation, both in an organized and unstructured form, provides individuals with numerous physical health, psychological, economic and environmental benefits which are associated with a high quality of life. Recognizing this, the field of recreation planning has emerged to effectively position decision-makers and service providers to meet the recreational needs of a community in a sustainable manner.

On June 28, 2010 Council approved the 2010 Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan (motion #10-G-294). The plan established a strategic framework for the recreation and parks' services, programs, and facilities for the next ten years. The study used a variety of methods to consult with stakeholders and City staff to develop seven goals:

- a) Proactive Leadership
- b) Excellence in Customer Service
- c) Embracing an Integrated Service Delivery Approach
- d) Program and Service Priorities
- e) Including Under-Represented Groups
- f) Asset Management
- g) Environmental Protection and Stewardship

Two of the key infrastructure recommendations of the 2010 Plan were:

- a) The recommendation for a multi-use community center located in Barrie's south end to support existing population and future growth in that area.
- b) Considerable need for sports fields, particularly soccer, as well as neighbourhood and community level facilities geared to children and youth.

In summer of 2017, the City issued a request for proposal to update all aspects of the 2010 Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan. A team lead by Monteith Brown Planning Consultants was selected as the successful proponent. With the consultant team on board, the City was able to refine the scope of the assignment to give the City the key direction for the coming years. A number of factors were considered:

- a) At the time of the last Master Plan (2010) the City was expected to grow from a population of 139,000 (est.) in 2009 to 170,000 by 2019. For various reasons the City did not experience the rapid growth predicted with the 2016 census showing Barrie at 141,000. Because the growth predicted did not occur, in many cases the previous Master Plan recommendations are still valid.

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- b) In 2017, using the consultant Monteith Brown, the City completed an updated growth study for Recreation Services, based on new census data, which provided the foundation document for the conceptualization studies for the community center needs in Hewitts and Salam Secondary Plan Area. This study confirmed the need for one multi-use community centre in the Hewitts area in the next five years and recommended that a Salam facility be planned from 2026 to 2031 depending on the uptake of development activity in the secondary plan areas. The studies were completed and endorsed by Council in November of 2017.
- c) The City has formed a Sport Events/Facilities Advisory Committee. This group will consider proposals for new competitive/elite facilities and develop partnerships with community stakeholders. Discussion is expected to include the potential of a major stadium facility in the City of Barrie. This wasn't identified in the previous Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan and wasn't included in the scope of the update.

Since the recreation facilities had been previously addressed in the growth study and conceptualization studies, a refined scope was developed. The scope of the intended 2017/18 project was refined to focus on outdoor recreation facilities to aid in the long term planning of those facilities. This study will conduct surveys of key users (i.e. sports clubs) and hold small workshops for staff and users to help define the City's needs. If the schedules align, the consultation with users will be coordinated with Sport Events/Facilities Advisory Committee. In the end, the final Outdoor Recreation Facility Study will:

- a) Document the background information;
- b) Review relevant trends and best practices;
- c) Outline facility needs for existing and proposed parks; and
- d) Develop an implementation strategy.

The final report, scheduled for December 2018 will be brought back to Council for acceptance.

The reduced scope comes with a lower price and those funds were returned through the recent Capital Status Report.