
TO: GENERAL COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITY STUDY AND 2017 UPDATE TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION GROWTH STRATEGY

WARD: ALL

PREPARED BY AND KEY CONTACT: T. REEVE, P. ENG., SENIOR INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING PROGRAM COORDINATOR

SUBMITTED BY: B. ARANIYASUNDARAN, P. ENG, PMP, DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING
B. ROTH, DIRECTOR OF RECREATION SERVICES

GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL: A. BOURRIE, ACTING GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT
D. MCALPINE, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER APPROVAL: M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RECOMMENDED MOTION

1. That the Outdoor Recreation Facility Study identified in Staff Report ENG002-19 be approved in principle to guide future planning and development within the City of Barrie.
2. That the 2017 Update to the Parks and Recreation Growth Strategy identified in Staff Report ENG002-19 be approved in principle to guide future planning and development within the City of Barrie.

PURPOSE & BACKGROUND

3. The City of Barrie provides outdoor recreation facilities to encourage healthy lifestyles, athletic development, and social interaction among its residents. Since 2010, long-range planning for the outdoor recreation facility system has been guided by the City's Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan along with subsequent Parks and Recreation Growth Strategy projects undertaken in 2013.
4. The purpose of this Staff Report is to update City Council on two reports that have been completed by Monteith Brown Planning Consultants related to the planning of parks and recreation facilities for the City of Barrie. These reports build on previous studies to provide updated long-range planning. These reports are available after March 14, 2019 on the City of Barrie website at the below links:

Update to the Parks and Recreation Growth Strategy (2017):
<https://www.barrie.ca/Living/RecreationFacilities/Community-Centres/Pages/default.aspx>

Outdoor Recreation Facility Study (2019):
<https://www.barrie.ca/Living/RecreationFacilities/Pages/OutdoorSportsFields.aspx>

2017 Update to the Parks & Recreation Growth Strategy

5. The 2017 Update to the Parks & Recreation Growth Strategy is presented as a high level review and update of the 2013 Parks & Recreation Growth Strategy in order to inform community centre development concepts being prepared for the Salem and Hewitt's Secondary Plan areas. The intent of the 2017 update was to reconfirm recreational needs outlined in the original 2013 Growth Plan including Barrie's south end based on current market conditions, updated population forecast, facility utilization rates, trends and preferences in recreational activities.
6. The scope of work focuses on the following major recreational components:
 - Arenas
 - Indoor aquatic centres
 - Gymnasiums
 - Fitness space
 - Dedicated space for youth and older adults
 - Sports fields
7. The study included a review of the broad trends in the recreation & community centre design, review of the service level targets, and population forecasts. Within the update to the Parks & Recreation Growth Strategy, Monteith Brown compared the number and capacity of current recreational facilities and programs within the City of Barrie to establish municipal recreation service level targets. This comparison resulted in the conclusion that the City Of Barrie will not meet service level targets in any category (ice rinks, aquatic centres, fitness, youth and senior programs) without the addition of new facilities in the Hewitt's and Salem growth areas. The study then provided the base to complete the conceptualization studies for Hewitt and Salem Community Centres. The conceptualization studies were completed with input from various project stakeholders through discussions, meeting and focus groups. The conceptualization studies were completed in 2017 and endorsed by Council in principle in November of 2017.

Outdoor Recreation Facility Study

8. In the summer of 2017, the City issued a request for proposal to update all aspects of the 2010 Parks & Recreation Strategic Master Plan. A team led by Monteith Brown Planning Consultants was selected as the successful proponent. On June 25, 2018 through a Memorandum to Council on the Parks & Recreation Strategic Master Plan Update, staff informed Council of the decision to reduce the scope of this study to focus on outdoor recreation facilities to aid in the long term planning of those facilities. The indoor recreation facilities study was completed in parallel with the conceptualization studies for Hewitt's and Salem. This reduced study was renamed the Outdoor Recreation Facility Study.
9. The Outdoor Recreation Facility Study updates previous assessments in light of changes to community demographics, recreation trends, and changes to the number of outdoor recreation facilities that have occurred over the past decade. By revisiting needs for outdoor recreation facilities to 2031, the Outdoor Recreation Facility Study provides the City with a plan to provide quality outdoor recreation experiences.
10. The Outdoor Recreation Facility Study analysed outdoor recreation facility needs based on levels of service developed using previous studies, best practices, trends and comparable municipalities. The study also provides high level capital cost estimates for recommended facilities in order to inform future planning processes (e.g., development charges, capital budgets). The following recreation facilities are considered:

- Rectangular sports fields
- Ball diamonds
- Outdoor tennis and pickleball courts
- Outdoor basketball courts
- Splash pads
- Playgrounds and outdoor fitness equipment
- Outdoor skating rinks
- Skateboard parks
- Cricket pitches

ANALYSIS

Outdoor Recreation Facility Study

11. The following is a summary of the outdoor recreation facilities recommended in the Outdoor Recreation Facility Study:

Facility Type	Recommendation
Rectangular Fields (soccer, football, rugby, etc.)	<p>A total of four rectangular fields should be constructed to redistribute underperforming / low quality fields in existing areas to improve access within Hewitt's and Salem (and surrounding area).</p> <p>Initiate a site selection and land banking process through which to develop a future outdoor sports field complex required to provide the balance of four rectangular fields to meet growth related needs. There is more discussion on this below.</p> <p>At the City's discretion, the provision of 5v5 or 7v7 field templates may be provided within Neighbourhood Parks on the basis of facilitating unstructured neighbourhood use and enhancing geographic distribution.</p>
Ball Diamonds	<p>A total of ten ball diamonds are recommended within the former City boundary and the secondary plan areas.</p> <p>Re-evaluate ball diamond needs (in tandem with a review of rectangular sports fields) in five years to confirm the need for the balance of 24 ball diamonds (16 lit major diamonds). This would potentially be located at a future outdoor sports facility.</p>
Tennis and Pickleball	<p>Construct six courts for tennis and / or pickleball in the Hewitt's Secondary Plan.</p> <p>Construct four courts for tennis and / or pickleball in the Salem Secondary Plan.</p> <p>Investigate opportunities to construct seven tennis courts, some of which may be multi-court within established areas of Barrie to resolve gap areas.</p>
Outdoor Basketball	<p>Provide two basketball courts in the Hewitt's Secondary Plan.</p> <p>Provide two basketball courts in the Salem Secondary Plan.</p> <p>Where opportunities exist, develop basketball courts in the underserved areas of Barrie. Opportunities to enlarge existing free-throw pads should also be considered when undertaking park improvements to allow for drop-in games.</p>

<p>Splash Pads</p>	<p>Construct two new splash pads, one to be located at the Hewitt's District Park and the second at the Salem District Park.</p> <p>Construct two new splash pads in between Tiffin Street and Mapleview Drive corridors, one located on either side of the Highway 400 corridor, at locations to be determined pending future site and feasibility assessments which were not part of the scope of this study</p> <p>As a part of the Park Master Plan for Heritage Park, planned for 2019, incorporate the development of a destination-style splash pad as a replacement to the existing water play feature, which has reached the end of its lifespan.</p>
<p>Playgrounds and Outdoor Fitness Equipment</p>	<p>Continue to implement the City's playground replacement program to renew aging playground equipment, as necessary. Where possible, consideration should be given to incorporating inclusive playground features, as well as natural / adventure structures, for new and replacement playgrounds.</p> <p>Construct a playground at each park within Hewitt's and Salem to ensure that residents have access to a playground.</p> <p>On a case-by-case basis, the City should install outdoor fitness equipment in areas with high concentrations of older adults or high priority areas including along major trail routes or at community, regional or district parks.</p>
<p>Outdoor Skating Rinks</p>	<p>Identify outdoor skating rink opportunities at Neighbourhood Parks in Hewitt's and Salem that have proposed tennis and basketball courts. These outdoor skating rinks should be maintained and operated by City staff, although solicitation of volunteers that are interested in initiating a community run ice rink program may also be encouraged. Due to the impact of climate change, the use of artificial ice rinks in strategic locations should be considered.</p>
<p>Skateboard Parks</p>	<p>Construct one major skateboard park at the Hewitt's District Park and a second skateboard park at the Salem District Park.</p> <p>Two major skateboard parks should be constructed at existing parks in the west or east side of Barrie, north of Mapleview Drive and south of Tiffin Street. Site selection would be subject to a fit analysis.</p>
<p>Outdoor Sand Volleyball Courts</p>	<p>In consultation with volleyball organizations, explore opportunities to construct additional volleyball courts at an existing park or at the future outdoor sports park facility. A minimum of four volleyball courts should be developed at a site in order to facilitate tournaments.</p>
<p>Cricket Pitches</p>	<p>Upon confirmation of demand, construct a full size cricket pitch (dedicated or multi-use field), potentially to be located at the future outdoor sports facility or alternative location deemed appropriate</p>

12. A primary challenge in preparing recommendations for the Outdoor Recreation Facility Study was that the planned parks within Hewitt's and Salem are limited in size and number. Many of them are Neighbourhood Parks and Village Squares that are unable to support sports fields. As a result, the Outdoor Recreation Facility Study recommends that the City investigate a site selection and land banking process to develop a future outdoor sports facility to provide the balance of sports fields required to meet growth related needs. Outdoor recreation facilities that should be accommodated at the future outdoor sports facility include:
- 4 rectangular sports fields (11v11 size fields);
 - 24 ball diamonds;
 - 1 cricket pitch;

- Other potential recreation facilities including, but not limited to, playgrounds and tennis, pickleball, basketball, volleyball courts that would otherwise not be able to be accommodated at planned parks within Hewitt's and Salem; and
 - Supporting amenities including, but not limited to, parking, washrooms / changerooms, storage, spectator seating, unstructured greenspaces, and other spaces deemed necessary by the City.
13. The recommendations in the Outdoor Recreation Facility Study are estimated to have a capital cost of \$26.4 million. This cost is for the facilities alone and does not include site servicing and development costs. Additional work is required to consider the ongoing lifecycle costs associated with the various facilities and services that they provide. This does not include the cost of land acquisition for a future outdoor sports facility or construction of the facilities / amenities within it.
14. Some of the projects require additional studies in order to determine priority and feasibility. All projects would be subject to review and prioritization against other needs. The timing of implementation of the various components of the Outdoor Recreation Facility Study is contingent upon factors such as affordability / availability of capital funds, population growth, park redevelopment, potential partnership opportunities, and other variables.
15. The Outdoor Recreation Facility Study will help guide the implementation of outdoor recreation facilities with developers within the secondary plan areas.

2017 Update to the Parks & Recreation Growth Strategy

16. The following is a summary of the outdoor recreation facilities recommended in the 2017 Update to the Parks & Recreation Growth Strategy:

The Hewitt's and Salem Community Centres would each contain:

- A twin pad arena with ice pads designed to NHL size specifications (200' x 85');
 - An indoor aquatic centre containing a 25 metre rectangular pool as well as separate leisure, teaching and / or therapy pools;
 - A gymnasium designed to full size specifications (at minimum) so that sanctioned events can be held;
 - An equipment-based fitness centre containing weight training and cardiovascular equipment, and supported by a group fitness / active living studio(s) and an indoor walking track;
 - Spaces for youth and older adult programming;
 - Public library branch subject to findings from the Barrie Public Library Master Plan;
 - One lit rectangular field (at minimum); and
 - Other outdoor areas such as seating areas, hard surface sport courts, splash pads, etc. that are rationalized through existing or future studies.
17. The conceptualization studies for the Hewitt's and Salem Community Centres were completed in 2017 and recommended locations, a functional program analysis, a proposed design for each facility, and a Class D (planning level) cost estimate based on the latest available growth information. The conceptualization studies were approved in principle by Council in November of 2017. The facilities have been included in the City's 10 year Capital Plan. Hewitt's is currently scheduled to begin in 2024 and Salem in 2029.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

18. There are no environmental matters directly related to the recommendation. It is generally accepted that providing recreation and green spaces are positive environmental aspects to City services.

ALTERNATIVE

19. The following alternative is available for consideration by General Committee:

Alternative #1

General Committee could direct staff to revise the reports to emphasize different facility types.

This alternative is not recommended as these two reports have been prepared by technical experts in the field, and City staff subject matter experts. The reports are guidance only and do not commit the City to these facilities.

FINANCIAL

20. There are no financial implications for the Corporation resulting from the proposed recommendations. Future decisions on capital and operating expenses would be made with consideration for the recommendation in these reports during the development of the annual business plan.

LINKAGE TO COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

21. The 2018-2022 Council's Strategic Plan has not been finalized at the time of writing this Report.