



Municipality of Port Hope

Staff Report

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Report Title: Location of New Port Hope Pump Park

Report to: Committee of the Whole

Date of meeting: October 22, 2024

Report Author:

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Department responsible:

Parks, Recreation & Culture

Report Number: PRC-13-24

Recommended Action:

That Council direct staff to proceed with the installation of the Port Hope Pump Park at one of the following locations:

- Option 1: Town Agricultural Park
- Option 2: Rapley Park

Highlights:

- The Municipality is the successful recipient of an Ontario Trillium Foundation Capital grant in the amount of \$200,000 over 12 months to construct the Port Hope Pump Park.
- A Pump Park is a looped paved track designed for riders using bikes, scooters, skateboards and wheelchairs to promote outdoor physical activity and social connection.
- Parks, Recreation and Culture (PRC) staff are working with residents, including youth representatives of the Youth Action Committee, along with the PRC Advisory Committee to consider the pump park, including the criteria for site location and the design elements
- Staff are recommending two park locations that meet the criteria for site location and can accommodate the anticipated design and size of the park.

Background:

At the April 20, 2022 Parks, Recreation and Culture (PRC) Advisory Committee meeting, a delegation was made to support the installation of a pump park. Delegates represented a group of residents, including youth, who provided information and recommendations related to the installation and benefits of a pump track.

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The Municipality of Port Hope's Strategic Plan (2019-2022) includes the Priority: A healthy, sustainable community that delivers multi-generational programming, facilities, and initiatives for residents of all ages and life stages. The accompanying goal is to enhance the quality of life for our residents and accommodate demographic changes.

In February 2021, the Municipality of Port Hope Leisure Services Master Plan (LSMP) was released identifying the parks, recreation and cultural needs and priorities for the Municipality, community stakeholders and the public over a ten-year period. Key findings reflect a desire for unstructured activities and increased casual use of trails and parks. Requests for BMX style pump tracks were received through the public consultation process. A recommendation was included in the LSMP to consider a location for a pump park in partnership with local groups that can assist.

Staff applied for Ontario Trillium Foundation grant funding in February 2024 to support a pump track development. The submission fell under the Funding Priority of fostering active lifestyles through the purchase of equipment and enhancing or improving outdoor structures or spaces. Staff were notified of the successful grant in August 2024 and have been working to evaluate potential locations.

Discussion:

Pump parks are looped, paved tracks with berms, rollers and turns designed for riders using bikes, scooters, skateboards and wheelchairs. Instead of peddling or pushing, riders use natural momentum to 'pump.' Pump parks can be natural gathering places for youth, fostering community engagement, social interaction and physical activity. Pump tracks can be highly popular destinations while at the same time meeting community needs. Design features can be challenging and enjoyable for a wide range of ages.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation grant submission commits the municipality to a park location with infrastructure such as washrooms, parking and lights, close to areas of dense population and accessible from numerous neighborhoods. The park will be open from dawn to dusk for drop in use, with scheduled special events and skill sessions. The park will primarily target youth ages 13-24, however significant use is expected by the under 12 and 25-64 year old demographics.

The PRC Advisory Committee has suggested the following criteria to evaluate the site location:

- Considerations for demographics- where kids live and can get to, and a variety of ages;
- Importance of adequate parking (existing and potential to add, and associated costs);
- Trail connections;
- Security needs- relating to vandalism;
- Safety needs- relating to potential for higher risk/injuries;
- Access to drinking water, washrooms, and shelter;
- Adequate lighting considerations- related to parking and health and safety;
- Low impact of PHAI remediation requirements- due to the nature of timing as the park is to be completed before November 2025.

Staff support the above criteria and additional factors evaluated include: future planning and community growth considerations, availability of destination access (i.e., out of town visitors using the park), adequate space for allocated design and build budget and ability to implement in the required timeline.

Initially, six Municipal parks were evaluated: Rapley Park, Baulch Road Park, Lions Park, King's Field, Town Park and Wladyka Park. After careful consideration by staff, Baulch Road Park, Lions Park, King's Field and Wladyka Park were ranked lower due to concerns about accessibility, park layout, other future development plans, transit, trail access, and space constraints.

Rapley Park and Town Park are being presented as the final two locations for Council consideration.

Town Park:

Town Park is a well-appointed park located in the east of the Municipality. Town Park is the site of the annual Fall Fair, the Fall Fair Centre, Town Park Recreation Centre (TPRC), existing tennis and pickleball courts, skate park and baseball and soccer fields.

Town Park is classified as a Community Park and is 5.2 ha in size. Community parks are designed for the recreation and leisure activities of all residents and/or the broader regional population. As per the Municipality's Parkland Classification System in the Official Plan, Community Parks:

- Shall be developed for the enjoyment of a diverse population and provide opportunities for a variety of activities including active recreation, facilities, special events and festivals;
- Shall be accessible by emergency services;
- Vary in size depending on the nature and extent of the facilities being provided and the purpose of the park;
- May also include areas for passive recreation and naturalized spaces.

Town Park meets the requirement of the grant, and the criteria set out by the PRC Advisory Committee. This park has existing parking, access to amenities such as shelter, video surveillance, water, staff when the facility is open, transit, walk-to access and synergies with the existing skate park. The park has two potential sites – one to the east of the TPRC and one to the west.

The location to the east of the TPRC positions the pump park on the tarmac, bordered by the existing skate park to the north, TPRC to the west, and parking lots to the south and east. Installation on the east side will require the removal of the existing basketball court and relocation of the sun shelter.

The location to the west of the TPRC positions the pump park just south of the pickleball courts on the existing flat field. This location impacts annual use of the Port Hope Fair and has a significant connection to parking lot and other amenities that will need to be considered.

If Town Park is the confirmed location, the exact positioning (east or west) will continue to be reviewed through community engagement and specific park design proposals as each area has impacts to be considered in the design process (including available space, orientation, etc.).

Rapley Park:

Rapley Park is located in the west of the municipality and has a playground (replacement being installed Fall 2024) and is large, flat greenspace.

Rapley Park is classified as a Neighborhood Park and is 2.3 ha in size. Neighbourhood Parks are designed for the recreation and leisure activities of residents in a specific residential neighbourhood. As per the Municipality's Parkland Classification System in the Official Plan, Neighbourhood Parks:

- Shall be developed to serve the recreational needs of the people in the surrounding area to promote walkability;
- May contain playgrounds, trail connections, hard surface courts, unlit sports fields for casual play, and other local-level amenities geared to serve the surrounding neighbourhood such as shade and seating;
- Shall be accessible by emergency services;
- May vary in size depending on the nature and extent of the facilities being provided and the purpose of the park;
- Shall be located in the Urban Area and Hamlets and shall be designed to complement and contribute to the character of the surrounding neighbourhoods;
- May also include areas for passive recreation and naturalized spaces.

Rapley Park will require portable washrooms and the addition of a parking lot to meet the requirements of the grant and does not have access to staff, shelter, video surveillance or drinking water at this time. The addition of a low-grade parking lot can be managed through regular operating budget.

The large, open space at Rapley provides an element of choice for the specific site of the pump park and allows for space in the surrounding area for spectating or future expansion. Rapley Park is located in an area of significant future population growth on the west side of the municipality, near Lakeside Village (Mason Homes) development and is well connected to the existing and potential future trail system.

It is anticipated that a Request for Proposal (RFP) process will be undertaken and will include design concepts and community engagement activities. It will be important that the site be determined as the pump park will be designed specifically to that location with considerations for best practices and industry standards.

Financial Considerations:

The value of the Ontario Trillium Foundation grant is \$200,000. This includes track construction, signage and benches. The Municipality has committed to in-kind

contributions in the value of \$14,500, including site-preparation and staff in kind costs through regular operating budget.

A review of insurance requirements is underway.

Communication and Public Engagement:

The Youth Action Committee will be engaged, along with the initial delegates to the PRC Advisory Committee to consider the design elements of the pump park. PRC Staff will work with the Communications division to create awareness about the park development and installation of the pump park. The Ontario Trillium Foundation indicates certain funding recognition requirements that will acknowledge the grant through events, materials and on the website.

Conclusion:

Council's direction on the location of the Port Hope Pump Park ensures that the development aligns with feedback received from the community, the criteria of the Ontario Trillium Foundation agreement and PRC Advisory Committee. The development of the Port Hope Pump Park aligns with 2019-2022 Strategic Plan Municipal Priorities and several key findings in the 2021 Leisure Services Master Plan.

Attachments:

None