



Municipality of Port Hope

Staff Report

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Report Title: Leisure Services Master Plan Implementation Update

Report to: Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee

Date of meeting: November 21, 2023

Report Author:

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Department responsible:

Parks, Recreation & Culture

Report Number: PRC-13-23

Recommended Action:

That Report PRC-13-23 be received for information.

Highlights:

- The Leisure Services Master Plan was established in 2021 and seeks to communicate the priorities relating to parks, recreation and culture in Port Hope and proactively respond to future needs and trends.
- The ongoing review and implementation updates relating to the content are an important function for planning of priorities and strategies.

Background:

Parks, Recreation and Culture undertook a consultation process to create a Leisure Services Master Plan (LSMP) in 2021. This was a second-generation plan, the first was developed in 2010. The Master Plan is intended to guide decision-making by staff, Council and partners through recommendations related to policies, service areas, and provision targets until 2030.

Included in the LSMP is a vision statement and guiding principles, as well as strategies for all service areas of the department. The strategies are divided into priority goals, aligning with the Framework for Recreation in Canada, a nationwide definition which supports coordinated policies and practices in recreation. The goals include:

1. Active Living
 2. Inclusion & Access
 3. Connecting People & Nature
 4. Supportive Environments
 5. Recreation Capacity
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Discussion:

The LSMP requires monitoring and reporting on the status of the Plan. Staff and the PRC Advisory Committee review and complete an assessment of the plan on a bi-annual basis. This highlights achievements related to parks, recreation, and culture, and includes updates to key considerations and shows the progress of the implementation of the plan.

Staff and the Parks, Recreation and Culture Advisory Committee reviewed the components of the LSMP relating to each of the recommendations. Attachment 1 – Leisure Services Master Plan Implementation Chart is attached to this report. The Parks, Recreation and Culture Advisory Committee reviewed and endorsed the progress report on September 20, 2023.

The Leisure Services Master Plan identifies 119 recommendations to be considered. Some noted recommendations which are completed or ongoing are:

- Review the Ruth Clarke Activity Centre operating and program model;
- Review the Cultural Plan to guide the Municipality's continued role in supporting and facilitating community initiatives;
- Continue to focus on the provision of group-based fitness programs and other active living opportunities;
- Identify the number of events held in public spaces on an annual basis and monitor the number of attendees to measure attendance levels.

Some priority action items for implementation in 2023-2025 are:

- Improve trail and parkland development and enhance park amenities to facilitate more participation, including maintenance standards;
- Review and enhance the Access and Inclusion Framework and Municipal Subsidy and Fee Assistance Policy;
- Develop and review park classifications and playground replacement plan;
- Promote a Healthy and Active Lifestyle through communications and social media marketing campaigns;
- Volunteer engagement;
- Develop a long-range youth plan to maximize youth participation in parks, recreation, and culture;
- Asset management planning including operations and maintenance plans for parks, facilities and cemeteries;
- Evaluate locations to construct a covered outdoor rink and sports pad as a replacement for the Caroline Street rink;
- Consider a location to establish a BMX pump park;
- Update the Municipality's Parkland Dedication By-law;
- Plan and justify additional staff requirements to support population growth and increased demands;
- As new data becomes available, review and update the population projections contained in the Leisure Services Master Plan to ensure that they are in alignment with other planning processes (i.e. Official Plan)

Financial Considerations:

Continuing to address the recommendations of the Leisure Services Master Plan will reflect a commitment to provide invested progress and assets into Parks, Recreation and Culture. The Master Plan is a guiding document used in responding to community need, growth, and management of assets. The implementation of these aspects will continue to be included in operational and capital budget planning as priorities where appropriate, and continued grant sourcing.

Communication and Public Engagement:

Not Applicable

Conclusion:

This report is reflective of the vision, goals and principles of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture. Provision of services include a wide range of innovative, inclusive, and accessible programs and spaces, social interaction and community engagement.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Leisure Services Master Plan Implementation Chart