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Report To: Council

Date of Meeting: October 28, 2024

Report Number: CAO-007-24

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Submitted By: Mary-Anne Dempster, CAO

By-law Number:

Resolution Number:

File Number:

Report Subject: Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan – Final Report

Recommendations:

1. That Report CAO-007-24, and any related delegations or communication items, be received;
2. That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan, attached to Report CAO-007-24, as Attachment 1, be endorsed;
3. That the CAO be directed to develop a five-year action plan, inclusive of a financing strategy, to address top short-term priorities identified in the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan, and report back to Council in Q1 2025;
4. That Council recognize and consider feedback received as part of the community survey related to special projects and prioritizing future investment;
5. That all interested parties listed in Report CAO-007-24, and any delegations be advised of Council's decision.

Report Overview

Following the initial presentation of the draft Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan (PRCMP) on September 16, staff initiated the final period of public engagement on this cross-functional project, to confirm support of the Master Plan by Council, the public, key stakeholders and community groups.

The following report provides an overview of survey results, feedback received, and changes made to finalize the draft, based on community input.

The report also includes the final Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan for endorsement.

1. Background

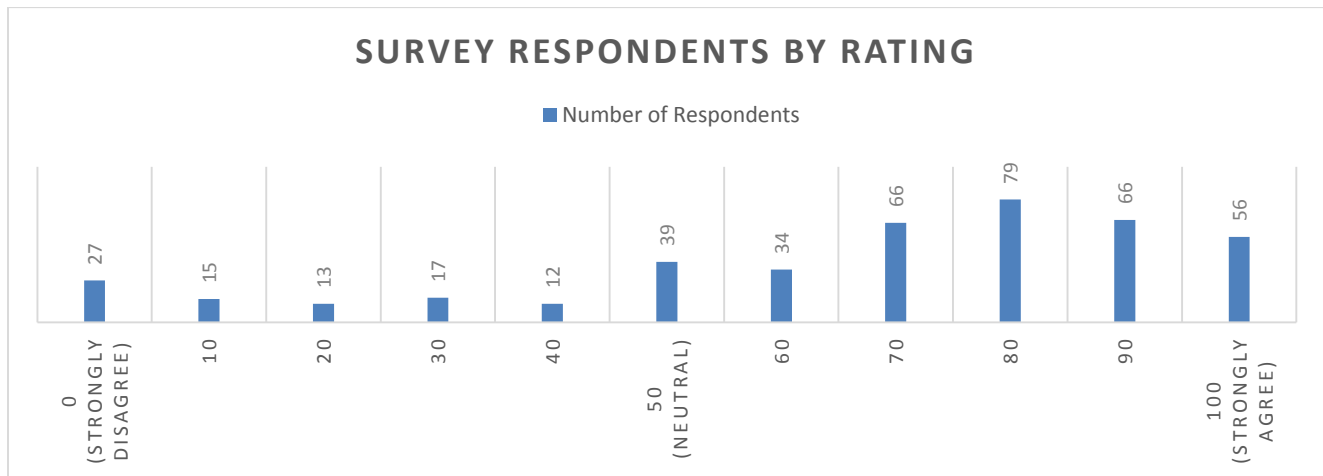
- 1.1 As directed by Council in April 2023 in [Report PDS-26-23](#), the Municipality of Clarington has developed a Parks, Recreation, and Culture Master Plan (PRCMP), to understand and plan for services and facilities to meet the community's needs now and in the future.
- 1.2 The PRCMP maps out Clarington's current resources and assets, creates a vision and makes recommendations for future spaces and services that are fiscally and environmentally sustainable while suiting the unique needs of the community for the next 10 to 15 years.
- 1.3 Monteith Brown Planning Consultants was retained in July 2023 to develop the PRCMP. Guided by a Terms of Reference prepared by the Municipality, development of the Master Plan was divided into five phases.
 - Phase 1 consisted of background review, data collection, and preliminary analysis, as well as an inventory of facilities, programs, and services.
 - Phase 2 focused on community engagement with residents, stakeholders, staff, and Council through a variety of engagement tactics; as shared with Council in Report [PDS-011-2024](#).
 - Phase 3 included staff review of an initial draft PRCMP.
 - In Phase 4, the draft master plan was shared with Council and the public for final review and comment. At the Special General Government Committee meeting on September 16, 2024, Report [CAO-004-24](#) presented the draft Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan. A presentation was given to Committee members to provide an overview of the draft PRCMP's key recommendations and next steps to test the document with the public. This report outlines the feedback received and changes made to the draft to finalize the PRCMP for Council's approval.
 - The project is now at Phase 5: Final Approval and Implementation of Master Plan.

2. Public Engagement Campaign

- 2.1 As part of Phase 4 of the project, a public engagement campaign ran between September 17 - October 15, 2024, to encourage residents to www.clarington.net/PRCMP to review the full draft PRCMP (or highlights) and complete the survey. Respondents were asked to rank their level of agreement with the draft and submit any further feedback for consideration by the project team and consultant.
- 2.2 Overall, 447 public feedback submissions (424 survey submissions, 23 written e-mails) were received from members of the public, community organizations, Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA), the local Indigenous community, and representatives of landowner groups. School boards were also invited to review and provide feedback on the draft PRCMP. Feedback was received by the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board; no comments were received from the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board, French Catholic Board: Conseil Scolaire Catholique Mon Avenir or French Public Board: Conseil Scolaire Viamonde.
- 2.3 The survey was widely promoted to the community through a variety of tactics, including direct mail, social media, newsletters, digital screens, press releases and paid advertising (radio, newspaper and online). Residents were also incentivized to participate by having the chance to win an iPad mini.
- 2.4 Promotion of the feedback survey resulted in:
 - 10,987 people visiting www.clarington.net/PRCMP.
 - 424 people responding to the survey (+23 e-mails to PRCMP inbox).
 - The full draft PRCMP was downloaded 1,097 times.

Summary of public feedback on draft PRCMP

- 2.5 Overall, the draft Master Plan was well received with more than two thirds of respondents in support of the PRCMP. It received an average rating of 66 out of 100, based on 424 survey respondents (ratings were between 0-strongly disagree to 100-strongly agree). The below chart shows the distribution of survey respondents by rating:



- 2.6 The general sentiment about the draft PRCMP was positive, with residents overall supporting the proposed investments in the community to improve parks, recreation, culture, and library opportunities in Clarington.
- 2.7 For those respondents that were less supportive of the draft PRCMP, public feedback focused on the need for a twin pad arena in the more immediate term. The development of two new pads at the South Courtice Arena continues to be supported, subject to confirming arena needs as part of a five-year update to the draft PRCMP. However, no change to the timing of the provision of new indoor ice pads has been made as there are higher priority needs within the community.
- 2.8 General feedback was received that raised concerns about the amount of investment required to implement the recommendations of the draft PRCMP.
- 2.9 Keeping pace with growth was recognized by the community. Written comments indicated support for many of the draft PRCMP's recommendations including:
- A need for more parkland and to recognize non-municipal parks in rural areas that can be used by the public such as Orono and Kendal Crown Lands and conservation areas. There was support for locating schools adjacent to major parks (e.g., Municipal Wide and Community Park). Strategic Park investments were also supported, including planting native species and renewing aging park infrastructure.
 - Constructing the South Bowmanville Recreation Centre, with specific mentions supporting the development of a new indoor aquatic centre to provide access to more aquatic programming.
 - A dedicated cricket field.
 - The need for more sport courts, particularly for pickleball.
 - Continued trail development to encourage healthy lifestyles and to connect all areas of Clarington (e.g., within each urban area, Courtice to Newcastle, rural areas,

waterfront and adjacent communities). Suggestions were made to utilize hydro corridors for trails and provide connections to the future Durham Meadoway in Oshawa.

- Expanding library space, including support for a library branch in the north end of Bowmanville.
- Greater investment and promotion of Clarington's arts and culture opportunities, particularly for events such as farmers markets, programming and performance space, as well as using existing community spaces and preserving and protecting built and natural heritage features.
- Making greater use of existing sports fields, including building upon or exploring new partnerships with non-municipal landowners.
- Recognizing Clarington's Indigenous roots through public art, programming and special events, and planning for future parks and facilities.
- Protecting and preserving the natural environment, as well as investment in park amenities and spaces to create welcoming and inclusive public spaces including, but not limited to, shade, seating, gardens, and spaces for all ages and abilities.
- Continued waterfront development for parks, recreation and cultural uses.

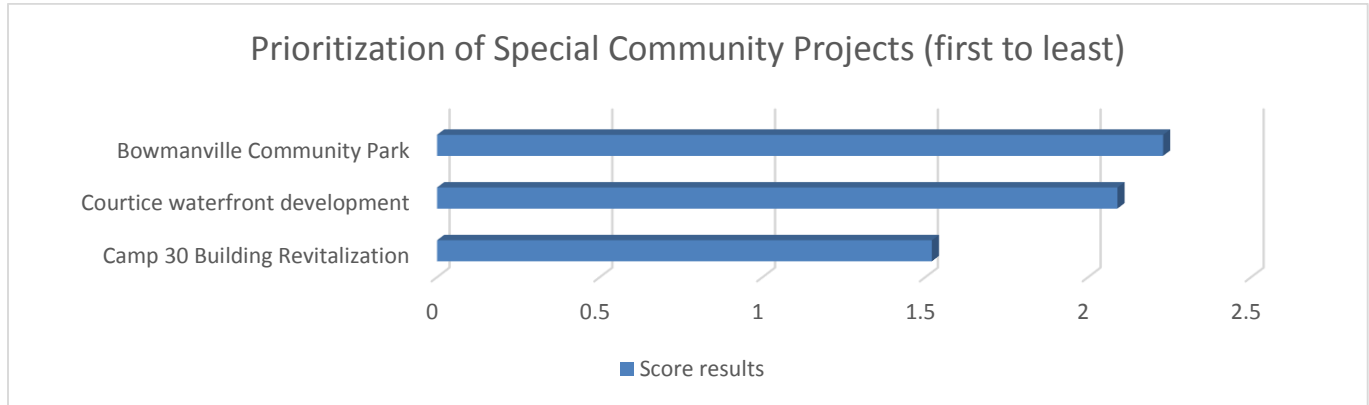
2.10 In addition to the public feedback that was submitted, written feedback was received from several representatives from the development industry regarding the recommended parkland hierarchy, particularly with respect to the minimum size for Neighbourhood Parks. It was also requested that parks planned through ongoing or completed Secondary Plan Areas and/or development applications be maintained. No changes to the minimum size for Neighbourhood Parks have been made as there is a need to accommodate a range of outdoor recreation facilities, including sports fields (ball diamonds, rectangular fields) that are typically expected in this type of park and to provide meaningful park experiences. The draft PRCMP recognizes that during the planning period, additional parkland will be required to accommodate outdoor recreation facilities and spaces to meet the needs of residents. Municipal staff will need to determine the best way forward to implement the draft PRCMP's recommendations, including working with the development community to address parkland requirements as development occurs through future amendments to planning documents (e.g. Official Plan, Parkland Dedication By-Law, etc.).

Summary of public feedback on the prioritization of unique community spaces

2.1 As directed by Council via Resolution #GG-137-24, staff added a question to solicit community feedback to determine how investment should be prioritized for the following unique community spaces, as identified in the Clarington Strategic Plan:

- Bowmanville Community Park (former Zoo lands)
- Camp 30 Building Revitalization
- Clarington Waterfront Strategy (with a focus on Courtice waterfront development)

2.2 The below charts outline the results of this survey question. Rankings are weighted. The formula calculates a score for each option by multiplying the weight of the rank by the number of responses for that rank, and then averaging that score across all responses. This approach helps to identify the most favored options based on both their ranking and the number of supporters):



	1	2	3	Count	Score	Avg Rank
Bowmanville Community Park	42.07% 175	43.27% 180	14.66% 61	416	2.23	1.73
Courtice waterfront development	41.42% 169	34.80% 142	23.77% 97	408	2.09	1.82
Camp 30 Building Revitalization	19.80% 80	20.30% 82	59.90% 242	404	1.52	2.40

Score: sum of the weight of each ranked position, multiplied by the response count for the position choice, divided by the total contributions. Weights are inverse to ranked positions.

Avg Rank: Sum of the ranked position of the choice, multiplied by the response count for the position choice, divided by the total 'Count' of the choice.

- 2.3 The above is shared with Council to help inform decision-making about prioritizing investment in these unique community spaces. The Bowmanville Zoo Lands Park and Camp 30 Cafeteria Building are being presented for Council's consideration in respective concurrent reports. Staff are working to advance Council's vision for a future Courtice Waterfront Park and an update will be provided at the Nov. 4 General Government Committee meeting.

3. Overview of PRCMP changes based on feedback

- 3.1 The public feedback received was considered as part of finalizing the Parks, Culture and Recreation Master Plan. Generally, the feedback received was in support of the recommendations contained in the draft PRCMP. Some comments received were specific in nature and typically not considered at the master planning level, such as specific locations for new facilities, as this is typically evaluated as part of the implementing recommendations, although it is helpful information for staff and Council to make future decisions. Other feedback was beyond the scope of the Master Plan.
- 3.2 The following is a summary of changes that were made to finalize the Master Plan.
- The parkland hierarchy was revised to encourage the co-location of Municipal Wide and Community Parks with schools.
 - Language added to further recognize the history and presence of Indigenous Peoples in Clarington through programming and special events. Recommendations were added to review and revise public documents with an Indigenous lens, and to engage Indigenous Peoples in planning future parks and facilities.
 - References were added to recognize non-municipal parks and outdoor spaces in and around the Municipality (such as conservation areas and land trusts) that can be used by the public for passive activities, such as hiking and outdoor enjoyment.
 - Language was added to recognize that there may be some sports fields that are not municipally owned but offer access to recreation opportunities (e.g. fields at Knox Christian School).
 - A recommendation was added to explore potential trail development opportunities and connections to municipally owned lands such as cemeteries. Additional trail routes were also proposed to be explored, such as utilizing hydro corridors and connecting to the Durham Meadoway in Oshawa.
 - Revisions were made to the Municipality's cultural facilities, including correcting key dates and recognizing cenotaph locations and other cultural facility providers such as churches. The recommendation to study modernizing the Visual Arts Centre was expanded to include exploring potential enhancements to the outdoor space to support small-scale events such as shows and performances.
 - While the Master Plan recommends the development of dedicated tennis and pickleball courts to avoid conflict between users, revisions were made to consider

multi-lined courts in the rural area, recognizing that levels of use may be lower compared to urban areas, although this should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

- Site evaluation criteria was provided to assist the Municipality and Clarington Library, Museums & Archives in addressing future library space needs.
- Additional language was added to Section 7.4 on staffing implications to recognize that additional consultation with public and stakeholders will be required to better understand expectations on service levels, which may result in increasing staffing requirements. Staffing levels may also be influenced by community partnerships, volunteerism, and other internal efficiencies, which also need to be considered as the community grows.
- Language was added throughout the Master Plan to incorporate themes related to raising awareness and protecting and preserving the natural environment and waterfront.

3.3 The draft PRCMP was refined based on the feedback received, and staff are recommending the final PRCMP (Attachment 1) be endorsed.

4. Financial Considerations

4.1 Following Council's approval, staff will develop a five-year action plan, inclusive of a financing strategy, to address top short-term priorities identified in the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan, and report back to Council in Q1 2025.

5. Strategic Plan

5.1 G.2.3: Develop and complete Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan, and Prioritize action items for implementation.

C.4.1: Promote and support local arts, culture, and heritage sectors, and Implement the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan.

G.3: Unique community spaces are prioritized:

- G.3.1: Determine the future of the historic Camp 30 cafeteria building
- G.3.2: Consider the creation of a community park on the former Bowmanville Zoo Lands
- G.3.3: Enhance Clarington's waterfront

6. Climate Change

6.1 The Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan recommends that Clarington design new and redeveloped parks and facilities with a climate change lens; with regard for

guiding frameworks such as the Clarington Corporate Climate Action Plan to achieve the Municipality's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 35 per cent by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2050.

7. Concurrence

- 7.1 This report has been reviewed by the Deputy CAO of Planning and Infrastructure and Deputy CAO of Public Services, who concur with the recommendations.

8. Conclusion

- 8.1 It is respectfully recommended that Council endorse the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan and direct staff to develop a five-year action plan, inclusive of a financing strategy, to address top short-term priorities identified.

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Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan

Interested Parties:

List of Interested Parties available from Department.