



## Corporation of the Township of Brock

### Staff Report to the Mayor and Members of Council

**From:** Wayne Ward  
**Position:** Director Parks, Recreation and Facilities  
**Title / Subject:** MacLeod Park Plan Public Feedback  
**Date of Report:** November 21, 2024  
**Date of Meeting:** December 16, 2024  
**Report No:** 2024-PRF-028

#### 1.0 Issue / Origin

As requested by Council, public feedback on the MacLeod Park Plan Revision report, 2024-PRF-022 has been compiled.

#### 2.0 Background

On October 7, 2024 a report on the MacLeod Park Plan Revision was presented to Committee of the Whole. Resolution COW-2024-179, "Be it Resolved that Resolution COW-2024-178 be amended by including That Council directs staff to publish to the public, Concept 1 and Concept 2, holding an Open House for public input from residents and community groups; and That Council directs staff to complete the public Open House and return back with a report by the end of 2024.

#### 3.0 Analysis

The Open House was held on October 24, 2024 at 6pm. Approximately 25 members of the public and community organizations attended along with the Mayor, members of Council, Clerk and Director Parks, Recreation and Facilities.

The concepts were posted on the Township website and promoted through the communication coordinator.

Responses were received through email in order to have a record of the exact responses. The date of closing for responses was November 11, 2024.

In total 53 responses were received, including 38 from members of the Brock Rugby Club, 13 general comments, and specific input from Region of Durham, Cannington Horticultural Society, Cannington Historical Society, Cannington Lions Club and a Director from the Trans Canada Trail.

The majority of comments, specifically from the members of the Brock Rugby Club indicated the first priority is a Sports Field followed by the accessible paths, dog park as the second and third priorities.

Other comments included basketball courts, tennis courts, pickleball courts, playground, washrooms, splash pad, pump track, band shell, dock or kayak launch, canteen, yoga/tai chi spaces, changes to the baseball diamonds and keeping the parking as it is with improvements.

The specific comments from Durham Region were in regards to the Wellhead Protection Areas surrounding the wells and pump house located within the park boundaries and what can be designed for these specified areas. Some items identified by Region staff include the location of the dog park, sports field maintenance where commercial fertilizers may be utilized, stormwater management and the washroom facilities. The letter from Durham Region is included as an attachment to this report.

The Cannington Horticultural Society suggests a Concept 3 be developed to maintain open spaces, maintain the south baseball diamond in its current location, enhance entrance appeal, increase tree planting and include a designed feature of a heart shape to recognize Cannington as the Heart of Ontario. Designed parking, removing vehicular traffic on McRae and Trootie Streets or making the north side of the park roads one-way travel, replacing current or proposed delineation posts with trees, shrubs or hedges. Reduction in mowing in park areas and creation of meadow gardens and naturalized spaces along with the addition of native plants to maximize biodiversity. The letter from Cannington Horticultural Society is included as an attachment to this report.

Cannington Historical Society comments included items such as parking both within the park areas and the parking lot, deleting the walking path between the buildings at the Historical Museum site, resecuring the “stockade” of the park area, enhanced signage to and within the park area, maintaining the “Community Gathering Area” in front of the train station structure, installation of permanent washrooms to eliminate the need for portable toilets, eliminate the use of asphalt for surfacing and using alternative environmentally friendly alternatives, tree planting and ensuring these are not damaged or destroyed by parking, and ambient pathway lighting. The letter from the Cannington Historical Society is included as an attachment to this report.

The Cannington Lions Club was not specific with their comments but noted that they are pleased and fully support the plans for the park. The letter from the Cannington Lions Club is included as an attachment to this report.

The correspondence from the Trans Canada Trail offered support and encouragement to apply for grants to support this proposal. The email from Trans Canada Trail is included as an attachment to this report.

As already indicated the top priority from the public consultation is for the creation of a multi purpose sports field.

#### **4.0 Related Policies / Procedures**

N/A

#### **5.0 Financial / Budget Assessment**

Funding will be required for topographical surveying and geotechnical testing prior to design of the field including size, placement and surface type (natural or artificial). The surveying and testing will provide vital data for design as this will ensure the location is able to support the field, light standards if the field is to be illuminated, adequate drainage is in place for rainwater run off, and similar circumstances. Through consultation with a landscape architecture company the proposed budget is \$25,000 for this testing with a small contingency of about \$3,000 included.

Funding to continue to engage with a landscape architect firm will be required to amend the design based on the feedback received and to design the sports field. Although this latest concept was completed by a member of the community staff feel this should be opened as an RFP to allow for open and transparent bidding on the design of the park or specifically this portion of the overall project.

This project has not been included in the 2025 Draft Capital Budget to-date. If approved, this project will need to be added to the 2025 budget and a funding source identified. The balance in the parks reserve at year-end 2025 is estimated to be \$120,346. If an additional \$25,000 is withdrawn from the Parks Reserve to support this project in 2025, it is estimated that the balance at year-end 2025 for the Parks Reserve will be approximately \$95,346.

#### **5.1 Asset Management**

Once completed this will likely be added to the inventory of parks and recreation amenities and will have an impact on asset management and will require funding towards replacement or substantial restoration based on the life span of this type of facility and the probable amount of use.

#### **6.0 Climate Change Impacts**

Changes proposed in this proposal will have impacts, both positive and negative based on the approved designs. The negatives will be investigated to determine if there are alternatives that are preferred for climate change.

The majority of the proposed items will have positive climate change impacts, specifically additional tree planting, creation of open spaces, reduced grass cutting, planting of native species trees, bushes, grasses, etc. will provide a more robust park and will require less maintenance. There will be reduction in GHG by less grass cutting and trimming and improved climate health with the introduction of more trees.

## **7.0 Communications**

Copies of the letters from Durham Region, Cannington Horticultural Society, Cannington Historical Society, Cannington Lions Club and Trans Canada Trail are attached.

## **8.0 Conclusion**

This proposed project starts putting increased parks and recreation facilities into MacLeod Park. This site has been the subject of a number of proposals with minimal improvement taking place. This plan starts the process towards a vision as provided in these concepts.

Some items such as the splash pad and other facilities that require substantial infrastructure to be installed including water and wastewater service will be subject to available capacity from the regional services. These are still good long-term goals and should continue to be investigated and not left on a shelf.

Staff propose to start with topographical surveying of the park along with geotechnical testing within the park.

Secondarily, staff propose this project be put out for RFP to complete design for the field and to create the tender documents and oversee the project on behalf of the Township.

## **9.0 Recommendation**

Be it Resolved That Committee receive report 2024-PRF-028, and

That, Committee direct staff to include the proposed testing budget of \$25,000 in the 2025 Capital Budget submissions for deliberation and be funded by a draw from Parks Reserve, and

That, Committee direct staff to put out a Request for Proposal for the design of a multi-purpose sports field and to provide design proposals to Council along with costing for construction and management of the project. Proposals shall include both lit and unlit field options.