



OAKVILLE

REPORT

Special Council

Meeting Date: June 14, 2022

FROM: Planning Services Department, Parks & Open Space Department,
Finance Department

DATE: June 7, 2022

SUBJECT: Parks and Open Space Strategy

LOCATION: Town-wide

WARD: Town-wide

Page 1

RECOMMENDATION:

That the report from the Planning Services Department, Parks & Open Space Department and Finance Department, dated June 7, 2022 regarding the Town's Parks & Open Space Strategy, be received.

KEY FACTS

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- Council endorsed the town's Urban Structure in 2017 which establishes the centres and corridors in the town which are slated for further intensification. These areas require a parkland system to support the increase in population. A more urban park hierarchy is needed in these locations.
- Changes to the Ontario *Planning Act* were enacted in 2019 which requires municipalities to create a Parks Plan should they wish to use alternative parkland dedication rates.
- The town has retained consulting services to develop a Parks & Open Space Strategy which will create an urban park hierarchy, as well as a Plan which will identify an alternative parkland dedication rate.

- The draft Parks & Open Space Strategy is being presented to Council for information and feedback which staff will use to finalise the Strategy.

BACKGROUND

In 2019 and 2020, the Province altered the way in which municipalities were to undertake its financial planning with the proclamation of Bills 108, 138 and 197. Staff have reported on the legislation previously with commentary on the varied implications, including changes to the Development Charges, Community Benefit Charges and parkland dedication regimes.

Specific to parkland dedication, municipalities are now required to develop a Parks Plan which identifies parkland needs to support the population. Changes brought forward through Bill 197 also requires municipalities to update parkland dedication by-laws by September 18, 2022.

The effect of these changes means that parkland dedication by-laws can now be appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

COMMENTS

Staff have been working through the 2031 population forecast for the town's Strategic Growth Areas, as identified in the Urban Structure. To support the town's growing population, an urban parks hierarchy is needed which will complement the existing campus of parks, and suburban parks hierarchy, throughout the town. The Parks & Open Strategy identifies various objectives to ensure the town can achieve the desired parkland system through a series of tools, as well as different parkland types and forms.

The draft Parks & Open Space Strategy is attached as Appendix 'A' to this report, and will be presented to Council for discussion and comment.

Next Steps

Over the next few months, staff will continue to refine the Parks & Open Space Strategy through consultation with the public and the development industry.

The document will be posted to the Town's web-site here:

<https://www.oakville.ca/townhall/parkland-dedication.html>

Staff will be presenting a draft parkland dedication by-law to Council in August 2022, with the intent of Council passing the by-law in September 2022.

CONSIDERATION

(A) PUBLIC

The public will be notified of the parkland dedication by-law prior to adoption by Council.

(B) FINANCIAL

Not applicable at this time.

(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS

The Parks & Open Space Strategy is a corporate project undertaken through the Parks & Open Space, Finance and Planning Services Departments.

(D) CORPORATE STRATEGIC GOALS

This report addresses the corporate strategic goal(s) to:

- be the most liveable town in Canada

(E) CLIMATE CHANGE/ACTION

The Parks & Open Space Strategy is being undertaken in consideration of the town's Sustainability, and reviewed in the context of Council declaring a Climate Change Emergency on June 24, 2019.

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Oakville Parks & Open Space Strategy

Recommended & Prepared by:

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