



OAKVILLE

## REPORT

COUNCIL MEETING ADDENDUM

MEETING DATE: MARCH 29, 2021

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**FROM:** Mayor Rob Burton  
**DATE:** March 23, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Advancement of Community Infrastructure  
**LOCATION:**  
**WARD:** Multiple Wards

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### RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT staff be directed to advance the following community infrastructure projects:
  - a. Advancement of Community Infrastructure Projects
    - i) To ensure that all of the North Park plan is shovel ready by the end of 2021 by expanding the scope of the current detail design work to include the future community centre, branch library, and accommodation for the Oakville Soccer Club and Oakville Gymnastic Club on the site;
    - ii) To accelerate the design and construction of a skateboard park at Cornwall Park to be in service by the end of 2021;
    - iii) To report back to the May 25, 2021 Council Meeting on implementation and funding sources to expand the detail design of North Park to include community infrastructure facilities and construct the skateboard park at Cornwall Park.
  - b. Creation of New Community Infrastructure
    - i) That Council express an interest to the Region of Halton in the purchase of the former reservoir site located at 2273 Trafalgar Road for the purpose of creating a new public park for the public's enjoyment;
    - ii) The CAO and Town Solicitor be authorized to finalize a purchase of the site upon the Region declaring the site surplus;
    - iii) The future acquisition of the site be funded from the Cash in Lieu of Parkland reserve.

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c. Creation of New Community Infrastructure Celebrating Inclusion

- i) Installation of three (3) rainbow crosswalks in the Town's BIAs along Lakeshore Road at Navy Street, Kerr Street, and Bronte Road to be constructed by Transportation and Engineering staff to ensure safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles.
- ii) Staff report back to the April 26, 2021 Council meeting on implementation and funding sources for the installation of the three rainbow crosswalks.

**KEY FACTS:**

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

- The Covid-19 pandemic has served to highlight the importance of the connection between regular recreational exercise and strong mental health and well-being as reinforced by our public health experts. It has resulted in an unprecedented increase in the use of local parkland and community facilities by our residents and visitors.
- This trend towards increased use of recreational amenities is projected to continue for several years. This situation has highlighted the need for the creation of new public spaces to alleviate overcrowding and the impacts of overuse.
- The Federal/Provincial governments are both highlighting the importance of funding infrastructure to support communities and as an economic stimulus. Accordingly, the town needs to be prepared with shovel-ready projects to take advantage of future funding opportunities.
- There are two projects that can be accelerated in 2021 to address some of these pressures.
- The scope of the detail design work of the North Park projects can be expanded to include the future community centre, branch library, and future needs of the Oakville Soccer Club (OSC) and Oakville Gymnastics Club (OGC). This would ensure that all park, recreation and library amenities at North Park are fully shovel ready by the end of 2021 to be eligible for potential federal and provincial infrastructure funding opportunities going forward.
- There is also an opportunity to accelerate the construction of a skateboard park at Cornwall Park to be built in 2021.
- At this time, there is also an excellent opportunity to contribute to additional parkland for outdoor activities and connecting our east/west trails by adding new parkland for the community through acquiring the Region property at 2273 Trafalgar Road. This (former) reservoir site is 0.7 ha in size, vacant and available once the Region declares the land surplus.

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- On January 25, 2021, Council received an update report on Inclusive town Initiatives that have been implemented. To enhance and celebrate support for an inclusive community, it is recommended that the town fulfill the community's request for the installation of rainbow crosswalks to celebrate inclusivity and particularly demonstrate support for the LGBTQ+ community in Oakville. Rainbow crosswalks would be painted within the three (3) BIAs. Staff are requested to report back to Council on April 26, 2021 on the implementation and funding of the rainbow crosswalks in anticipation of Pride week in June.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The surge in the Oakville community use of parks, open space and community infrastructure due to Covid -19 continues. The huge upswing in usage of parks and particularly waterfront parks last summer was evident. This increase in the use of parks and open space amenities continued all winter as many Oakville residents participated in the highly successful winter strategy, *Snow Place Like Home*. There is no doubt the upcoming *Ready, set, spring!* program for the community launching on Saturday April 10 at Coronation Park will also be a huge success. The Oakville community has fallen in love with the outdoors, as well as participating in virtual offerings and programs through Recreation & Culture as well as the Oakville Public Library. The importance of being active for one's mental and physical health has never been more important.

Both the Federal and Provincial government have highlight the importance of supporting infrastructure improvements for the benefit of the community and as an economic stimulus. It is anticipated that both levels of government will be looking to fund infrastructure project which are shovel ready. In order to maximize these opportunities, having shovel ready projects should be a priority of the town.

This report highlights those community infrastructure opportunities to be implemented by the town and enable the town to take advantage of infrastructure funding which is expected to be announced by the federal and provincial governments.

### **COMMENT/OPTIONS:**

#### Acceleration of Community Infrastructure Projects

As part of the 2021 capital budget, funds (\$600,000) were allocated for the detail design of outdoor park amenities and facilities identified within the North Park plan. The master plan for North Park has already been completed.

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In order to advance the delivery of community infrastructure to our residents, it is recommended that the scope of the detail design work be expanded to include the much desired community centre and branch library, as well as potential accommodation of the OSC and OGA. This expanded scope of work will require additional funding and it is recommended that staff return to the May 25/21 Council meeting with additional information on implementation and funding.

At a previous Budget Committee meeting, Council received a delegation from a south Oakville youth on the need and importance of a skateboard facility in south Oakville. Presently there is no skateboard facility in southeast Oakville and this deficiency was reflected in the 2017 Facilities Update to the Parks, Recreation and Library Master Plan. There is an opportunity to incorporate a skateboard facility at Cornwall Park that would serve the youth in southeast Oakville. It is recommended that staff return with a report to the May 25/21 Council meeting with an update on funding and implementation.

#### Creation of New Parkland

The Region's former reservoir site at 2273 Trafalgar Road is an opportunity to deliver on the importance of the connecting regular recreational exercise and strong mental health and well-being in light of COVID-19. The site is 0.7 ha or 1.72 acres in size and provides good connectivity locally to existing east/west trails along the TransCanada and Interprovincial pipeline corridors to this site. It is recommended the Town acquire the (former) reservoir site as parkland for the community, upon the Region declaring the land surplus. Funding for the purchase would be Cash in lieu of parkland.

#### Celebrating Inclusion through Community Infrastructure

On January 25, 2021, Council received the Inclusive Initiatives Update report that outlined the various initiatives that the Town has implemented over the last 15 years to support an inclusive community. Through this report, Council endorsed the Halton Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Charter, the vision of which is to have an inclusive community where individuals are valued, respected and empowered to reach their potential. The report also included an outline of the staff and community engagement to be undertaken and the work to be completed over the next year, to develop a multi-year Inclusion Action Plan for Oakville.

As the consultation is undertaken and the Inclusion Action Plan developed this year, there is an opportunity to provide some "quick wins" that demonstrate the Town's ongoing commitment to an inclusive community. Recently, a group of students and other community members have made requests for the installation of a rainbow crosswalk to provide a gesture of support for the LGBTQ+ community in Oakville. This report recommends the installation of three rainbow crosswalks within

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Oakville's Business Improvement Areas (BIAs), which are frequented by residents and visitors. The proposed locations for the rainbow crosswalks are along Lakeshore Road at Navy Street, Kerr Street, and Bronte Road, providing a continuum of care and support across the breadth of the town.

It is recommended that staff report back to Council on April 26, 2021, on the funding and implementation of the rainbow crosswalks in anticipation of being implemented to celebrate Pride week in June.

## **CONSIDERATIONS:**

### **(A) PUBLIC**

There has been no public consultation on this report.

### **(B) FINANCIAL**

As outlined within the report, a follow up report will be brought to the April/21 and May /21 Council Meeting on the funding sources to support the detail design for North Park, the construction of the skateboard park at Cornwall Park and the installation of the rainbow cross walks. It is recommended the Halton Region (former) reservoir site acquisition be funded through Cash in lieu of parkland.

### **(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS**

To be addressed through future reports.

### **(D) CORPORATE AND/OR DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC GOALS**

This report addresses the corporate strategic goal to:

- Promote an engaged and inclusive community within an environment that benefits residents of all ages, abilities and backgrounds
- Promote a culture of continuous improvement and innovation through advancing community infrastructure
- To be the most livable town in Canada

### **(E) COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY**

Advancing community infrastructure projects as outlined within this report assists in long term community sustainability for our community. In addition, promoting and demonstrating inclusivity is integral to ensuring community sustainability

Submitted by:  
Rob Burton  
Mayor