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Town of Aurora

Information Report

No. CMS25-028

Subject: Parks and Recreation Master Plan – 2025 Status Report

Prepared by: John Firman, Manager, Business Support

Department: Community Services

Date: October 14, 2025

In accordance with the Procedure By-law, any Member of Council may request that this Information Report be placed on an upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting agenda for discussion.

Executive Summary

This report provides information regarding the implementation of recommendations contained in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2023), as well as anticipated priorities for 2026.

- The Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2023) was developed with extensive community consultation.
- Summary of key themes that helped guide the development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
- The Town continues to make significant progress implementing recommendations from the Plan.
- Anticipated priorities in 2026 will continue to support the recommendations in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Background

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2023) was developed with extensive community consultation.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan (the Plan) was completed and approved by Council in June 2023, following extensive community consultation with hundreds of individuals and organizations representing diverse interests and viewpoints. The Plan is an update to the previous plan from 2016, and reflects community growth, and changing demographics and interests.

Summary of key themes that helped guide the development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Key findings from the public engagement and research phase in developing the Plan produced the following themes:

- Parks and recreation services are very important to Aurora residents and their quality of life.
- Aurora is growing and becoming more diverse, with an aging population and greater demand for barrier-free opportunities for persons with disabilities and mobility challenges.
- The pandemic has highlighted the vital role of parks, trails and outdoor recreation opportunities in staying active and connected.
- Demand is growing for unstructured activities for all ages and abilities, such as use of parks, walking/hiking, special events, cycling, swimming, and fitness.
- Multi-use and flexible spaces help in accommodating emerging sports and activities, requiring flexibility in design and approach, and the need for facilities that can accommodate multi-uses.
- Aurora has a prominent sport community and there is strong interest in quality facilities that can support high performance athletics.
- Many groups and residents are seeking additional access to municipal recreation facilities and sports fields, sometimes resulting in waitlists for specific programs or locations at peak times.
- The pandemic was a significant challenge for many organizations and continues to impact service levels, especially impacting their ability to recruit and retain volunteers.
- The Town's parks are largely built out with little ability to accommodate new amenities, and parkland provision standards are declining, placing increased pressure on existing parks and amenities, and will require a greater emphasis on capital maintenance.

- The community places a high value on the natural landscape and environmental sustainability, requiring climate change adaptation and mitigation measures to be integrated into public sector practices.

Analysis

The Town continues to make significant progress implementing recommendations from the Plan.

Since the Plan was approved, the Town has moved forward with numerous projects guided by the recommendations within the Plan. Several accomplishments completed in 2024 were outlined in a previous report. In 2025, the Town has invested in excess of \$22.7 million in support of the Parks & Recreation Plan. Some of the accomplishments achieved in 2025 (in no particular order) include:

- Completion of construction and opening of the new gymnasium at the SARC.
- Completion and opening of the new shared-use artificial turf sports field at the site of the new Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School. Construction completed by the York Region District School Board, with funding support from the Town.
- Completion of construction and opening of a new shared-use artificial turf sports field in partnership with St. Anne's School.
- Completion of construction and opening of a new shared-use artificial turf sports field at Sheppard's Bush, in partnership with the Aurora Barbarians Rugby Football Club.
- Completion of Thelma Fielding Park, including playground, pickleball, and basketball.
- Pickleball and basketball court improvements completed at Trent Park and Edward Coltham Park.
- Sport Plan update completed and approved by Council.
- Employment Fair held in May 2025, with very successful results.
- Completion of the parks asset mapping and condition assessment, which will continue to inform our lifecycle planning and asset management database

A complete listing showing the status of all recommendations from the Plan is attached to this report.

Anticipated priorities in 2026 will continue to support the recommendations in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The following projects are planned for 2026:

- Review of the Pool Allocation Guidelines.
- Opening of the new 8-court pickleball complex at Fleury Park.
- New Splash Pad planned as part of the Fleury Park re-design.
- Playground replacements planned for Optimist Park and Atkinson Park.
- Staff will continue to assess opportunities for an indoor courts facility.
- Ongoing improvements to indoor and outdoor parks and recreation facilities as per the 10-year Capital Plan.
- Pursuing opportunities for underrepresented populations with various partner organizations such as True Sport, Sport Law, Wisdom2Action, and more.
- Completion of the field replacement plan for the upcoming loss of fields on The Stronach Group lands, including budget recommendations, informed by the Sports Field Development Strategy.

Advisory Committee Review

None

Legal Considerations

There are no legal considerations resulting from this report.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

Communications Considerations

There are no communications considerations resulting from this report.

Climate Change Considerations

The recommendations from this report do not impact greenhouse gas emissions or impact climate change adaptation.

Link to Strategic Plan

Ensuring the availability of high-quality parks and recreation facilities and programs supports the Strategic Plan goal of ***Supporting an exceptional quality of life for all*** in its accomplishment in satisfying requirements in the following key objective within this goal statement: ***Encouraging an active and healthy lifestyle.***

Alternative(s) to the Recommendation

1. Council may provide further direction.

Conclusions

That the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Status Report be received for information.

Attachments

Table 23 Annual Update 2025

Previous Reports

CMS23-021, Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2023 – Final Plan Presentation, June 6, 2023

CMS24-041 Parks and Recreation Master Plan – 2024 Status Report Pre-submission Review

Pre-submission Review

Agenda Management Team review on September 25, 2025

Approvals

Approved by Robin McDougall, Director, Community Services

Approved by Doug Nadorozny, Chief Administrative Officer