



CITY OF KINGSTON
REPORT TO COUNCIL

Report No.: 12-083

TO: Mayor and Members of Council
FROM: Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services
RESOURCE STAFF: Wally Ferris, Director, Recreation & Leisure Services
DATE OF MEETING: February 21, 2012
SUBJECT: Working Group for Grass Creek Park Master Plan,
Phase One – Guiding Principles & Public Visioning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In 2007, the City of Kingston purchased 45 acres of land adjacent to Grass Creek Park, expanding its overall size to 95 acres and making it one of the City's prime waterfront parks. The Official Plan and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan direct the City to continue the development of its waterfront parks and to engage community partners in this process. The City is about to begin construction on Lake Ontario Park, and has initiated the formal visioning and design process for the revitalization of Breakwater Park.

The need to develop a consolidated park plan for the expanded Grass Creek Park has been identified. Community engagement includes a public visioning process that will set guiding principles for the future development and program of the park. Critical to the success of the process is establishing a working group of engaged stakeholders. The working group is proposed to be comprised of interested community members, representatives from City Council, representatives from the Pittsburgh Community Benefit Fund and City staff. In 2010, the Pittsburgh Community Benefit Fund instructed its Board to work with the City regarding upgrades to Grass Creek Park and to report back with a plan and costs. The Board has expressed interest in becoming a formal partner and potentially making a financial contribution to this project.

This report recommends that Council appoint two (2) members to the Grass Creek Park Visioning Working Group and appoint two (2) alternate members.

The community consultation process will occur over ten months, beginning in the spring of 2012. At the conclusion of the public visioning process, the scope of participation of the working group will be deemed complete. Support services for this visioning process will be funded from the 2012 capital budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council appoint two (2) members of Council, being the Councilor from Pittsburgh District and a member of the Arts, Recreation and Community Policies Committee to the Grass Creek Park Visioning Working Group; and

THAT Council appoint two (2) alternate members of Council to the Grass Creek Park Visioning Working Group should the principal appointees not be able to fulfill their roles.

AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services
ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer

CONSULTATION WITH THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS:

Cynthia Beach, <i>Sustainability and Growth</i>	√
Jim Keech, <i>President and CEO, Utilities Kingston</i>	√
Denis Leger, <i>Transportation, Properties & Emergency Services</i>	N/R

(N/R indicates consultation not required)

February 21, 2012

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OPTIONS/DISCUSSION:**Background: Expanded Grass Creek Park**

Grass Creek Park is a 50 acre rural park located in Kingston east. It is approximately fifteen kilometers east of the LaSalle Causeway on the south side of Highway #2. This park functions as a community and regional park for recreation and major cultural events. It has water frontage on the Bateau Channel of the St. Lawrence River and the mouth of Grass Creek. This park contains a very active sand beach, picnic areas, a picnic pavilion, play equipment, parking, washrooms, a day camp building, a park maintenance facility, a boat launch, open fields, an 'Off-Leash Area' pilot project, rolling hills and trees.

Grass Creek Park is a favourite destination for local and community residents for events and functions. It is a very popular destination for family and group picnics. Recurring successful events and programs are held in this park including: Canada Day celebrations, Sheep Dog Trials, day camp programs and outdoor music concerts. The MacLachlan Woodworking Museum is located in the park at the Highway #2 entryway. The museum presents a combination of both indoor and outdoor exhibits and programs that promote the history and practice of woodworking in Kingston and Eastern Ontario. The visioning will consider the relationship of the museum within the overall park campus.

The City of Kingston purchased 45 acres of land immediately west of Grass Creek Park at a public auction on August 22, 2007. This property includes 268 metres of frontage on Highway #2, rolling farm fields, meadows, hedge rows, two existing (vacant) residential dwellings, a small wetland and 27 metres of frontage on the Bateau Channel. It shares the existing tree hedgerow with the west side of Grass Creek Park. The new property has been used in the past as support space for regional events occurring in the park.

Community Engagement in the Future Direction of Grass Creek Park

This spring, the City will engage the professional services of a park designer and public facilitator to work with the community on guiding principles and vision leading to a redesign of the expanded Grass Creek Park. An existing Master Plan for the 50 acre portion of the park, completed in 1991, will be a resource in the visioning/design process.

During the visioning process, consultant and staff will engage the community and solicit opinions and ideas on the future of the expanded parkland. The goal of the process is to create a vision and establish guiding principles to ensure the future park design meets the needs of the community and its stakeholders. Future technical designs of Grass Creek Park for subsequent phases of the project would occur following Council endorsement of the vision and funding approval in future capital budgets.

Working Group

Establishing a working group of engaged stakeholders is critical to the success of the visioning process. The working group is comprised of interested community members, representatives from City Council, representatives from the Pittsburgh Community Benefit Fund, and staff from Recreation & Leisure, Cultural Services and Public Works.

The role of the working group throughout the visioning process is:

- To contribute toward the park vision;
- To ensure inclusive community consultation;
- To be ambassadors for the project;
- To assist in key decision making;
- To inform the City of related community issues.

It is recommended that the working group membership include:

- Two (2) Councillors (one being the representative from Pittsburgh District and one being a representative from the Arts, Recreation and Community Policies Committee);
- Two (2) alternate Councillors.

Other members of the working group include:

- Two (2) members of the executive of the Pittsburgh Community Benefit Fund;
- Two (2) alternate members of the Pittsburgh Community Benefit Fund;
- One (1) member of the MacLachlan Woodworking Museum Board;
- City Staff;
- Ten (10) members of the community at large with a minimum of four (4) from District 12 (Pittsburgh).

Expected timeline for the visioning process:

Spring:	Engage professional services of a park designer/public facilitator to work with the community on guiding principles and vision leading to a redesign of the expanded Grass Creek Park
April-May:	Working group meeting with site familiarization, opportunities and constraints
May-June:	Visioning sessions – engage working group and the community (open public session)
Summer:	Presentation of guiding principles to working group for review and discussion
Fall:	Presentation of design visions - engage working group and the community (open public session)
December:	Presentation of preferred design vision and final report to Council

EXISTING POLICY/BY LAW:

N/A

NOTICE PROVISIONS:

N/A

ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS:

All meetings and public sessions for the visioning process shall adhere to the City of Kingston Policy and Procedures: Accessibility Consultation Process.

“The City of Kingston recognizes the importance of delivering services that are accessible to all individuals. This policy sets out a process for City Staff and Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee members to follow a clear consultation process which applies to City services and projects. The policy aims at improving accessibility to City services and programs for individuals living with a disability as described in the ODA and AODA.”

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Professional services estimated at \$40,000 to be accommodated in the 2012 capital budget.

CONTACTS:

Neal Unsworth, Manager, Parks Development	613-546-4291 ext. 1811
Kristine Hebert, Parks and Open Space Planning Coordinator	613-546-4291 ext. 1256

OTHER CITY OF KINGSTON STAFF CONSULTED:

Damon Wells, Director, Public Works	613-546-4291 ext. 2313
Cherie Mills, Manager, Policy Planning, Planning Department	613-546-4291 ext. 3289
Colin Wiginton, Manager, Cultural Services	613-546-4291 ext, 1357

EXHIBITS ATTACHED:

Exhibit 'A'	Aerial Image of Expanded Grass Creek Park
Exhibit 'B'	1991 Grass Creek Park Master Plan, Brad Johnson

Exhibit 'A'
Aerial Image of Expanded Grass Creek Park



Exhibit 'B'

1991 Grass Creek Park Master Plan, Brad Johnson



Contractor shall check all dimensions on the work and report any discrepancies to the Landscape Architect before proceeding. All drawings and specifications are the property of the Landscape Architect and must be returned at the completion of the work. This drawing is not to be used for construction until signed by the Landscape Architect.

No.	Date	Description	By	Chk.

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Brad Johnson + Associates Limited
Landscape Architect

GRASS CREEK PARK
TOWNSHIP OF PITTSBURGH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
DAVID A. MORGAN, DIRECTOR

Title
PRELIMINARY MASTER PLAN

Scale: 1" = 100'	Sheet no.
Drawn: BJ	
Checked: BJ	
Date: FEBRUARY 1991	
Job no.	

NOTE: THIS PLAN IS SCHEMATIC ONLY. IT HAS BEEN PREPARED USING A SYNTHESIZED AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH AS A BASE ON WHICH DETAIL IS VISUALLY REPRODUCED AT AN APPROXIMATE AND NOT ON AN ACCURATE TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY.