

Information Report



Service Area Public Services

Date Friday, September 9, 2016

Subject **Open Space Planning – Capital Project Update**

Report Number PS-16-22

Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

The Parks and Recreation Department is working on a significant number of projects that involve changes and improvements in existing parks and the implementation of new parks and/or trails. This report is to provide an update on the status of the parks capital projects.

Key Findings

- All parks capital projects are in various stages of completion.
- Open Space Planning staff continues to focus their efforts on completing capital projects that have Council approved funding.

Financial Implications

There are no financial impacts at this time. All projects are being completed within existing Council approved budgets.

Report

The Open Space Planning team in the Parks and Recreation Department is currently managing 32 capital projects of varying scopes and complexities. The applicable budgets range from several thousand to several million. The projects, their current status and timelines have been detailed below by ward.

This report is to provide an update on the status of the parks capital projects.

Ward 1

Lyon Park Baseball Diamonds Replacement

Project Status: In progress, nearing completion

Planned Completion: October 2016

Project Details:

The project entails the relocation and replacement of two softball diamonds in Lyon Park to facilitate planned changes to Waterworks Place road right-of-way which would otherwise impact the diamonds if not relocated. The improvements include the addition of an irrigation system, new lights, new backstop fencing, seating areas and pathways. The construction is almost complete. Installation of sod is planned to start the week of September 12, 2016. Sodding of the park was postponed in the month of July and August as a result of dry weather conditions and supporting water conservation measures. Open Space Planning staff continues to work with Water Services to ensure that as sodding work commences in the park, proper watering practises are in place to meet the necessary regulations.

Speed River Pedestrian Bridge between Macdonell and Arthur Streets

Project Status: In progress, an Environmental Assessment (EA) has commenced

Planned Completion: EA is planned to be completed in May 2017

Project Details:

A Ministry of Environment Class C Environmental Assessment (EA) commenced this summer to investigate the potential impacts, opportunities and constraints for establishing a pedestrian bridge across the Speed River between Macdonell and Arthur Streets. The bridge may be located beside an existing Guelph Junction Railway bridge. In addition to the Macdonell Street to Arthur Street Bridge, the EA has been expanded to also study the potential for the establishment of a future bridge approximately ninety metres downstream for a pedestrian bridge connection to be installed on the Arthur Street Riverwalk to connect the Metalworks residential development with downtown Guelph and the bus/railroad hub. Studying the second bridge was not initially part of the scope of work approved by Council but was added because of the close proximity to the Macdonell Street to Arthur Street bridge and the similarities in project characteristics. It was determined that there are cost efficiencies in completing the EA now versus issuing a separate EA at a future time. Both pedestrian bridges are identified in the Downtown Secondary Plan. A public information meeting has been scheduled for September 21, 2016 at City Hall to receive public input. Funding has been identified in the 2017 and 2018 capital budget for Council consideration to complete a community engagement process to determine the detailed design of the Speed River Pedestrian Bridge and then tender and construct it.

Arthur Street Riverwalk**Project Status:** In progress**Planned Completion:** Phase 1 Riverwalk, summer 2017**Project Details:**

The Arthur Street Riverwalk is located on the south side of Speed River spanning from Macdonell Street to Cross Street. The project involves the establishment of a pedestrian trail along the river in coordination with the Metalworks residential development. The installation of the project is being completed in partnership with Fusion Homes who is overseeing the construction tender for the Riverwalk with City financial contribution to accommodate upgraded amenities such as hard surfacing, ornamental planting and irrigation. The Riverwalk will be implemented in multiple phases with the first phase anticipated to start construction this fall. Fusion Homes is the lead on the project. Budget to construct the subsequent phases of the Riverwalk have been identified in the 2017- 2026 capital budget for Council consideration.

Eastview Community Park-North East Trail**Project Status:** Project completed July 2016 and open for public use**Project Details:**

Eastview Community Park-North East Trail is the implementation of 170 metres of trail in the north east end of the City. The trail establishes a connection from Speedvale Avenue East to the existing Eastview Community Park Trail and Starwood Drive. The trail project was tendered in the fall of 2015 with the project being completed and opened to the public in the summer of 2016. It included the implementation of new trail and trail gates at Speedvale Avenue.

Northview Park**Project Status:** In Progress**Planned Completion:** Summer 2017**Project Details:**

Northview Park is a new park located adjacent to Wideman Boulevard, Mullin Drive, Norma Crescent and Bowen Drive. In the fall of 2016 construction will commence to implement a splash pad, play structure, ice rink, shade structure, and landscaping in the park following the 2015 Council approved master plan. A tender has been issued for the construction of park amenities. Construction is expected to commence fall 2016, following confirmation of the low bid and all required documentation being in place. It is anticipated that the park will be constructed during the fall 2016/spring 2017 with completion of works and open for public use in the summer of 2017.

Eastview Community Park – Facility Building

Project Status: In progress

Planned Completion: Summer 2017

Project Details:

Staff is working on the detailed design of a new washroom building that is planned to start construction late in 2016 and be completed in 2017 for public use. The project needs Site Plan approval and is scheduled to commence that process this fall. The building will include: washrooms, change rooms, referee rooms, concession, storage and mechanical room for the future splash pad. Input was received from park user groups and staff to form the basis of the program for the building.

Riverside Park Play Structure Replacement

Project Status: In progress

Planned Completion: Summer 2017

Project Details:

Open Space Planning staff are currently working to finalize the design of the new play structure. The final design will be based a comprehensive review of the most recent input received by the public in the spring of 2016 as part of the third round of community engagement surveys. One of the items that current public input has requested is the need to make the overall design more wheelchair accessible. It is anticipated that the final play structure design will be completed over the winter of 2016/2017 with a tender being issued in the spring of 2017.

Speedvale Avenue Underpass and Trail Linkage – Studies

Project Status: In progress

Planned Completion: Background Studies and RSAC Approval for Fall 2016

Project Details:

The Speedvale Avenue Underpass and Trail Linkage are connected with the City's project to improve the Speedvale Avenue road right of way. The scope of the trail underpass and linkage is to establish an off-road pedestrian and cycling linkage from the existing Trans Canada Trail on the south side of Speedvale Avenue to the north side of Speedvale Avenue and into Riverside Park. Currently staff is overseeing the completion of necessary environmental and structural studies to determine the feasibility and design requirements needed to establish an underpass and trail.

A topographic survey and tree inventory has already been completed for the project. All study findings are planned to be presented to River Systems Advisory Committee (RSAC) in fall 2016 for acceptance. Budget funding has been included in the 2017 and 2018 capital budget for Council consideration to complete detailed design and construction of the project. The construction of the trail is proposed to coincide with the re-construction of Speedvale Avenue Bridge in 2018.

Ward 3

Trans Canada Trail – North Section

Project Status: On Hold

Planned Completion: Conceptual trail routing to be determined in the summer of 2017

Project Details:

The project is to design and construct an extension of the Trans Canada Trail to continue the trail linkage from Riverside Park, through the Woodlawn Cemetery to the city limits. In coordination with the Guelph-Eramosa Township, the goal is to establish a trail that connects to the Guelph to Goderich Trail network which includes the Kissing Bridge Trail. The project is on hold while Open Space Planning staff focuses on the Guelph Trail Master Plan Update. Through the trail master plan, staff continues to explore routing options with a goal to secure a conceptual route alignment by July 2017.

Ward 4

Ellis Creek Park

Project Status: Commenced August 2016

Planned Completion: Park implemented and open to public in 2017 pending Council budget approval

Project Details:

Ellis Creek Park is a new park located at Westra Drive and Curzon Crescent. Open Space Planning staff have begun site assessment and preparation for the community engagement process that will take place this fall. The community engagement will provide public input for master planning recreational amenities in the open space. Due to size restrictions, it will receive facility fit and conceptual design by in house staff prior to presenting options to the community for input. The master plan is planned for completion over the winter of 2016/2017. Funding has been included in the 2017 Capital Budget for Council consideration and approval for implementing the master plan in 2017 and open for public use.

Ward 5

Silvercreek Skatepark

Project Status: completed in June 2016 and open for public use

Silvercreek Skate Park Shade Structures

Project Status: In progress

Planned Completion: October 2016

Project Details:

Four new shade structures will be installed at the skatepark in the fall 2016. City staff is working through a consultant and contractor to plan the site works which are anticipated to commence in September. There may need to be temporary closures of portions of the skatepark while the shade structure work is being completed.

Speed River West Trail (Edinburgh Road to Hanlon Expressway on the north side of the Speed River)

Project Status: In progress

Planned Completion: 2017 pending Council Budget Approval

Project Details:

A scoped environmental impact study (EIS) is currently underway to determine if there are any environmental concerns within the project area for installing a trail along the Speed River that includes seating, replacement of a picnic shelter, signage and possibly a new bridge to cross Howitt Creek. The results of the EIS will form the basis for the detailed design which will occur this winter. Budget is identified in the 2017 Capital Budget for Council consideration to construct the trail and associated amenities in 2017. The project is associated with grant funding where contribution agreements are currently being worked on.

Crane Park Trail Development

Project Status: In progress

Planned Completion: EIS work to be completed in 2017 and inform the trail design process.

Project Details:

Staff is currently preparing a Request for Proposal document to retain an environmental consultant to complete an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) in 2016 and 2017. The EIS will survey environmental features of the area and determine a suitable trail alignment on City-owned land.

Consideration will be given to the adjacent lands and the larger overall context of the area as information is available. Staff have also met with the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) to coordinate environmental work as the GRCA completes a Management Plan for the Kortright Waterfowl Park lands adjacent to Crane Park. The GRCA anticipates that the management plan will take two years to complete, as they undertake detailed environmental studies possibly over eight seasons. It is anticipated that the City's EIS and the GRCA's Management Plan will be coordinated as the studies progress.

Ward 6

Jubilee Park Phase 2

Project Status: Currently under construction

Planned Completion: The park works are planned to be completed by the end of 2016 for use in 2017

Project Details:

The park is currently under construction to implement the final phase of the park master plan. The City's contractor is on site and working to complete a natural playground, splash pad and tennis courts. At present, the tennis courts are nearly complete, the splash pad servicing has been installed and the natural playground grading is underway.

South End Community Park – Splash Pad

Project Status: Completed in June 2016 and open for public use.

South End Community Park - Amenity Improvements

Project Status: In progress

Planned Completion: The playground rubber surfacing is planned to be completed in October 2016 while the pathway work will be completed in the spring of 2017

Project Details:

Work has been tendered and awarded to begin the replacement of the playground rubber surfacing. This work will result in the full closure of the playground for two weeks and is anticipated to be completed in the fall 2016. Upon completion of the playground work the main gravel pathway that leads to the baseball diamonds will be paved to improve overall site accessibility and reduce maintenance costs.

Colonial Drive Park – New Ice Rink Service

Project Status: In progress

Planned Completion: Work is anticipated to be completed by end of 2016 and open for public use

Project Details:

Staff is currently working on the detailed design to install a new outdoor ice rink service in Colonial Drive Park. The ice rink was approved as part of the master plan for the park. It is anticipated that construction will start late this fall following a formal tender.

Orin Reid Park - Cricket Pitch

Project Status - Completed 2016 and open for public use

Project Details:

A temporary junior stone dust cricket pitch has been installed in Orin Reid Park this summer. The pitch will be maintained as a "C" level, non-bookable field, with minimal maintenance practices and intended to be used for non-organized, recreational play, so that residents have the opportunity to learn, practice, and play the sport. Organized cricket play is reserved for the full size field at Margaret Greene Park. The master plan for Orin Reid Park designates a baseball field in the area where the cricket pitch has been installed. A baseball diamond is still intended to be constructed in the park and will be with approval of budgets within the 10 year capital budget forecast. With construction of the baseball diamond, the temporary pitch will be removed. A cricket pitch has been installed within Orin Reid Park on a trial basis to address resident inquiry and demand. A final location for the cricket pitch will be determined based on use, feedback and land availability.

City Wide Projects:

2016 Playground Equipment Replacements

Project Status: In progress – Planned completion for Spring 2017

Planned Completion: All four parks identified above will receive their replacement equipment by spring 2017.

Project Details:

Pre-selection process for the supply of play equipment is nearing completion. Staff are currently reviewing play equipment design submissions for the replacement of play equipment at Centennial Park, Hugh C. Guthrie Park, Carter Park and Jenson Boulevard Park. Once the play equipment for each site has been selected, it will form part of a tender for construction and installation.

Installation of play equipment will be divided into two phases (Fall 2016 and Spring 2017). It is anticipated that play equipment for Carter Park and Jenson Boulevard Park can be installed this year and play equipment at Centennial Park and Hugh C. Guthrie Park installed next year.

2015 Playground Equipment Replacements for Mayfield Park and Windsor Park

Project Status: In progress

Planned Completion: Fall 2016

Project Details:

Open Space Planning staff are currently working to resolve issues at Mayfield and Windsor Parks. The new play structures, installed in the fall of 2015, are currently fenced off from public use. These playgrounds have known deficiencies and items that were not installed as per the contract documents. Staff is working with the contractor to have all outstanding deficiencies at Mayfield and Windsor Parks completed. Both play structures were installed as part of the same contract by the same manufacturer. Due to the nature of the ongoing problems and sensitivity of these amenities, Parks and Recreation has elected to keep the playgrounds closed to ensure any known issue or problem will not result in an increased risk of injury to any resident or park user. Staff will continue to work with the contractor and playground manufacturer to try and correct the issues.

Guelph Trail Master Plan Update

Project Status: Starting fall 2016

Planned Completion: 2017

Project Details:

The Guelph Trail Master recommends an update be completed at least every five years; however, this has not been done since the plan was approved in 2005. It is important to review and update the plan to ensure it takes advantage of trail development opportunities that arise, re-evaluate and confirm priorities, encapsulate new policies and standards, identify funding to support the trail network and engage the public to understand their needs.

Parkland Dedication By-law Update

Project Status: In progress

Planned Completion: 2017

Project Details:

The current parkland dedication By-laws approved in 1989, 1990 and 2007 need to be revised to implement policies adopted by Council under Section 7.3 of Official Plan Amendment 48, to improve service delivery to external stakeholders and to streamline staff procedures. Staff are currently working on finalizing a project charter, communications plan and request for proposal for consulting services.

Financial Implications

There are no financial impacts at this time. All projects are being completed within existing Council approved budgets.

Corporate Strategic Plan

3.1 Ensure a well designed, safe, inclusive, appealing and sustainable City.
2.3 Ensure accountability, transparency and engagement.

Communications

None

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