

Staff Report to Council

Title: Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan

Report Number: Parks and Facilities-2024-06

Director: Community Services

Manager: Manager.

Meeting Date:
Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Date to be considered by Council:
Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Recommendation:

That Council receive the 2024 Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan.

Executive Summary:

Through community engagement along with interviews with staff and Council, McQueen Galloway Associates (MGA) have completed a draft Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan for the purposes of providing direction for the future of parks, facilities, and programs in Kincardine.

Strategic Priorities:

C.8-Create vibrant parks, green space, recreation facilities and programs for residents or visitors of all ages and abilities

Financial Considerations:

Recommendations derived from the Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan may have financial components associated with them. Staff will present those recommendations to Council at strategic times with budget implications included for Council approval. It can be anticipated that these recommendations will be presented as part of future budget deliberations.

Policy:

N/A

Context and Background Information:

McQueen Galloway Associates (MGA) has completed a comprehensive Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan that provides a guiding light for the future of parks, recreation, and programs within the Municipality of Kincardine.

MGA's contract commenced in late Q2 of 2023 at which time their team immediately started reviewing municipal policies and procedures, budgets, Standard Operating Procedures, previous reports, and plans as they pertained to the Community Services Department. This in-depth research provided a clear understanding of where the department has been with consideration of future opportunities.

Thorough community engagement that exceeded our expectations for participation from the public, confirmed that residents and visitors are passionate about their recreational pursuits.

The report is clear, concise and will be a working document that will provide staff opportunities to ensure Council is kept informed as the Plan progresses.

Staff are requesting that Council "receive" the report. This doesn't necessarily mean that Council is approving every recommendation that is identified within the report, as Staff will seek approval from Council as they present the recommendations during budget deliberations that will have budget impacts.

Consultation Overview:

Interviews

- Three interviews with Members of Council in addition to several Councillors participating in the two community workshops.
- Ten staff interviews and smaller focus groups.
- Accessibility Advisory Committee

Focus Groups with Key Stakeholders

- Six Focus Groups Conducted with Community Organizations or Committee's.

Community Workshop

- Two community in-person engagements at the Davidson Centre with over 150 people attending in total.

Virtual Community Workshop

- Two virtual engagements.

High School Workshop

- Grade 10 Class workshop.

Over 700 participants completed the on-line questionnaire.

Origin:

Implementation Considerations:

Staff will develop timelines in defining the process and timing for implementing recommendations identified within the Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan

Risk Analysis:

If there is lack of investment by Council in the recommendations, then facilities and parks continue to decline. Depreciated state of municipal facilities may cast a negative first impression of perspective new families considering on calling Kincardine home.

Attachments: Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan

Prepared by: Jayne K. Jagelewski, Director of Community Services

Submitted by: Jayne K. Jagelewski, Director of Community Services