

Request for Decision

Parks, Open Space & Leisure Master Plan Review-Final Report

Presented To: Community Services
Committee

Presented: Monday, Jun 16, 2014

Report Date Wednesday, Jun 04,
2014

Type: Presentations

Recommendation

WHEREAS the City of Greater Sudbury Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan was completed in 2004 in conjunction with the Parks, Open Space and Leisure background study for the City's new official plan;

AND WHEREAS Master Plans are updated every five years and rewritten every ten years to reflect emerging needs, trends and strategies through a Master Plan review and update;

AND WHEREAS Monteith Brown Planning Consultants was retained by the City of Greater Sudbury to prepare the Master Plan review as part of the official plan review;

AND WHEREAS inventories of existing facilities and services, new initiatives, changes in Leisure demands and trends have been incorporated as part of the review;

AND WHEREAS the plan provides guidance on an implementation strategy which identifies community priorities and sets a general course for meeting the needs by priority projects for implementation purposes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Greater Sudbury receive the report titled 2014 Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan Review;

AND FURTHER THAT key action plans be included as part of the Leisure Services strategic plan planned actions and included in future capital budgets for Council's consideration;

AND FURTHER THAT the Parks and Recreation Master Plan be used as a background study to inform the City's Official Plan review process.

Background

The City of Greater Sudbury 2004 Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan (Plan) was completed in conjunction with the Parks, Open Space and Leisure background study for the City's 2006 official plan.

Signed By

Report Prepared By

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Recommended by the Department

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The City of Greater Sudbury has been successful in implementing the majority of the recommendations included in the original plan.

Monteith Brown Planning Consultant (MBPC) was hired in August 2013, to conduct the 2014 Master Plan review. Building off the existing Master Plan, the purpose of the review is to create a realistic framework for the delivery of cost effective, high quality parks and recreation facilities, parks, trails, leisure services and programming with a view to meeting the changing needs of the community over the next ten years.

The 2014 Master Plan Review is distributed under separate cover (**Appendix A**) and (**Appendix B - Maps**), for Council's information. The plan will become an important planning tool and includes:

- Strategic framework
- Guiding principles
- List of accomplishments
- Parks and Leisure trends
- Community Demographics
- Public Engagement Program (Online survey results, Public open houses, Interviews with individual member of City Council)
- Leisure facilities inventory comparison (2004-2014) background, analysis and action
- Facilities analyzed and reviewed (Arenas, Pools, Community Centres, Fields, etc.)
- Parkland and Trails (Classification, Inventory, Surplus, Parkland, etc.)
- Delivery of Services and Programs (Healthy community challenges/priorities, Affordable access to recreation, staffing/volunteer management, partnerships, etc.)

Implementation Strategy

As part of the Master Plan document, recommendations on potential “action plans” have been identified at the end of each subsection or topic area. This is not intended to be a definitive list, as additional capital repairs, operating expenditures, and other initiatives outside the scope of this Plan may be identified and prioritized on a case-specific basis. By approving this Plan, the City is not bound to implementing every action plan or providing facilities in the order, amount, or timing indicated; rather, this Plan provides guidance on community priorities. It is expected that the City of Greater Sudbury will make decisions on individual projects and funding sources annually through the capital budget process.

This implementation strategy provides guidance for ensuring that the most critical action plans are dealt with in a timely fashion, while the less critical action plans are implemented over time. Annual operating costs for programs, services, and facilities (existing or recommended under this Plan) are not included in this analysis. It is expected that an analysis of operating budget implications and partnership options would be undertaken prior to approving any capital project and that sufficient annual operating funds would be allocated to any approved project.

In addition to funding availability, factors that might change priorities year to year may include:

- capital lifecycle and considerations of safety;
- legislation and mandated requirements;
- changes to service standards;
- public input and community interests;
- emerging trends and changes in participation rates;
- availability of alternate providers; and
- socio-demographic changes and growth forecasts.

The City of Greater Sudbury may be challenged in providing the appropriate financial resources to meet the Master Plan's recommendations. The full implementation of this Plan will require the pursuit of development charges, grants, alternative funding, and the establishment of various partnerships and collaborations with community organizations, schools, agencies, and other partners.

Priority has been determined based on an assessment of need, as identified throughout the planning process (including public engagement, trend and demographic analysis, assessments of facilities, parks, programs, etc.). Within the tables listed in the Plan, the priority and timing of action plans are organized into the following categories:

Priority

High Priority: Immediate attention is recommended during the timeframe recommended.

Medium Priority: Attention is required when high priority actions have been initiated or completed, or when suitable partners have been identified for funding.

Low Priority: Attention is required when high and medium priority actions have been initiated/completed.

Timing

Short-term: 2014 to 2018

Medium-term: 2019 to 2023

Ongoing: 2014 and beyond

*Note: In the tables distributed under separate cover, **(Appendix C)** the action plans are numbered according to the order in which they are presented in the body of the Master Plan. They are not listed in priority order.*

Monitoring and Updating the Master Plan

The City of Greater Sudbury should regularly review and assess, and revise the recommendations of the Parks, Open Space & Leisure Master Plan in order to ensure that they remain reflective of local conditions and responsive to the changing needs of the community. This requires monitoring of activity patterns, tracking user satisfaction levels, and undertaking a detailed ten-year review of the Plan. Through these mechanisms - or as a result of other internal or external factors - adjustment or resource allocations and priorities identified in this Plan may be required.

Reviewing the Plan requires a commitment from all department involved in the delivery of parks and leisure services, Council, and the public. An appropriate time for this is prior to the annual budgeting process. The following steps may be used to conduct an annual review of the Master Plan:

- review of the past year (recommendations implemented, capital projects undertaken, success/failure or new and existing initiatives, changes in participation levels, issues arising from the public and community groups, etc.);
- identification of issues impacting the coming year (anticipated financial and operational constraints, political pressures, etc.);
- cursory review of the Plan for direction regarding its recommendations;
- preparation of staff report to indicate prioritization of short term projects and determination of which projects should be implemented in the coming year based upon criteria established by staff (e.g., financial limitations, community input, partnership/funding potential, etc.);
- communication to staff and Council regarding the status of projects, criteria used to prioritize projects, and projects to be implemented in the coming year; and

- budget requests/revisions as necessary.