



## City of North Bay Report to Council

Report No: CSBU-2021-054

Date: September 20, 2021

Originator: Ian Kilgour, Domenic Schiavone, Beverley Hillier

Business Unit:

Department:

Community Services

Community Development and Growth

Subject: Parks Master Plan 2021

Closed Session: yes ☐ no ☒

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### Recommendation

That Report to Council CSBU 2021-54 regarding the City of North Bay's Parks Master Plan attached as Appendix "A" to this report, be received and referred to the Community Services Committee of Council Meeting scheduled for October 19th, 2021.

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### Background

The City of North Bay Official Plan (North Bay OP) was adopted by Council on September 8, 2009 and approved with modifications by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on December 11, 2011 and came into effect on January 6, 2012. As outlined in Report to Council CSBU 2017-20 prior to July 1, 2016, municipalities were required to undertake a review of their Official Plans every five years. The Planning Act requires a review of new Official Plans after 10 years and then every five years thereafter. In addition, the City is required to complete a provincial plan conformity exercise (ex. Growth Plan for Northern Ontario, Provincial Policy Statement 2020).

The newly developed Parks Master Plan will provide updated information to be used during the current Official Plan review. For land use planning purposes, it provides the City and development community with planned future park requirements which are necessary as the City grows and development expands into designated growth areas as defined in the Official Plan.

In October 2019 City staff issued a request for proposals for an experienced consulting firm to develop a comprehensive Parks Master Plan for the City of North Bay. In accordance with the Purchasing By-Law, Trace Planning and Design was awarded the contract to develop a Parks Master Plan for the City

of North Bay in December 2019.

All relevant plans and studies were reviewed during the development of the new Parks Master Plan. These plans and studies are:

- Strategic Plan (2017)
- Official Plan
- Active Transportation Master Plan (2019)
- Downtown Waterfront Master Plan (2019)
- Age Friendly Action Plan (2016)
- Multi-Use Recreational Feasibility Study (2013) and MURF Update (2019)
- Parks Plan Update (2009)
- Parks Building Assessment Study

The parks master planning process was moved forward with the assistance of numerous Community Partners and user groups including: service clubs, North Bay – Mattawa Conservation Authority, North Bay-Parry Sound District Health Unit, North Bay Active Transportation Committee, and community user groups/programmers.

The public consultation process was a key element of the plan's development. The consultation process included online public surveys highlighting activities and places, activity programmer's survey, community stakeholder sessions and community work sessions which explored what types of activities residents were most interested in and what kind of park facilities are preferred. COVID-19 restrictions came into effect in March 2020. The project team moved forward with online meetings to further consultation.

As a result of the current parks inventory, analysis and consultation process, North Bay residents envision a Parks Master Plan that is welcoming and safe for all residents; inclusive of all ages; accessible for people of all abilities; and provide recreational and social amenities at the neighbourhood, community, and regional levels. The Parks Master Plan is the result of good planning. It looks ahead as the City grows to guide the quality of parks spaces for citizens, sport and recreation tourism, and become a powerful economic development tool while providing the foundation for smart municipal parks growth.

The Parks Master Plan emphasizes the importance of the repurposing and the evolution of the existing parks inventory. This approach will help to limit the impact on future operating budgets. Public Works and Parks staff played a key role in this regard. Should the Parks Master Plan be adopted by Council, staff will endeavor to implement as much of the plan as possible by utilization of existing ongoing capital budget dollars and, where necessary provide specific projects for Council's consideration in future capital budget deliberations.

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## **Financial/Legal Implications**

The Parks Master Plan will be implemented over the next 20 years based on

Council's priorities and capital and operating budgets.

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## **Corporate Strategic Plan**

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|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural North and Near     | <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Prosperity                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable Balanced Growth            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spirited Safe Community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Responsible and Responsive Government |   |

## **Specific Objectives**

- Develop a strategic approach to Parks and outdoor space development over the next 20 years
- Develop and provide Parks services geared to meeting the broad spectrum of needs in the community.

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## **Options Analysis**

Option 1:

That Council approve North Bay's Parks Master Plan to be used by the City as a plan for the future development and redevelopment of parks over the next 20 years based on Council's priorities and capital and operating budgets.

This option will allow Staff and Council to begin working on the recommendations of the Plan.

Option 2:

That Council not approve North Bay's Parks Master Plan.

This option is not recommended as it will prevent the necessary planning to take effect for the adequate future development and redevelopment of parks

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## **Recommended Option**

Option 1 is the recommended option.

That Council approve North Bay's Parks Master Plan to be used by the City as a plan for the future development and redevelopment of parks over the next 20 years based on Council's priorities and capital and operating budgets.

Respectfully submitted,

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Title: Director, Community Development and Growth

Name Beverley Hillier, MCIP, RPP

Title: Manager, Planning & Building Services

Name Domenic Schiavone

Title: Director Public Works

**I concur with this report and recommendation.**

Name David Euler, P.Eng., PMP

Title: Chief Administrative Officer

Personnel designated for continuance:

Bryan Kimber

Community Development Coordinator