



Staff Report

Administration – Chief Administrative Officer

Report To: COW-Finance, Admin, Fire, Legal, Community Services
Meeting Date: March 13, 2023
Report Number: FAF.23.049
Title: Investigating Partnerships for the Protection of Green Space
Prepared by: Shawn Everitt, Chief Administrative Officer

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.23.049, entitled “Investigating Partnerships for the Protection of Green Space”;

AND THAT Council acknowledge that the work being completed through the “Beaver Valley Sustainable Tourism Strategy” be tied to the earlier Notice of Motion made by Councillor Maxwell on January 23, 2023;

AND THAT Council direct staff to continue to collaborate and investigate the feasibility of partnering with stakeholders to protect green space as outlined in Councillor Maxwell’s Notice of Motion through the Grey County led “Beaver Valley Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Action Plan and with further efforts to be considered after the Strategy has been completed.

B. Overview

The purpose of this report is to outline a recommendation addressing Councillor Maxwell’s Notice of Motion regarding investigating partnerships for the protection of green space.

C. Background

At the January 23, 2023, Council meeting, Council passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS our natural environment is one of the most important and most valuable asset of the Town of The Blue Mountains;

AND WHEREAS population growth both within The Town of the Blue Mountains and within reasonable commuting distance from the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) will continue to put pressures on our natural environment, and whereas ecotourism within our natural environment is essential to all aspects of our local economy, and whereas the connectedness of green space is essential to maintaining a healthy eco system necessary to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and whereas a healthy eco system is essential to future tourism, and whereas ongoing development pressures resulting in urban sprawl

continue to threaten our natural environment and impact on the health of eco systems, including human health, and whereas the GTA continues to expand outward;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of The Town of The Blue Mountains direct staff to investigate the feasibility of partnering with neighbouring municipal and regional councils (Grey Highlands,

Clearview, Simcoe County and Grey County, as well as private owners of connecting lands and conservancy groups) and the Province of Ontario to protect green space from Devils Glen Provincial Park through Pretty River Valley Provincial Park towards Castle Glen, Lorre Forest and Feversham Gorge westwards towards the Kolapore Uplands, Duncan Escarpment, Old Baldy in the Beaver Valley and the Cuckoo Valley Provincial Park, potentially using the Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park Model;

AND THAT Council direct staff to investigate potential opportunities and challenges to initiating a process of collaborating with potential partners and bring forward a report to Council in 2023.

D. Analysis

At the February 23, 2023, Grey County Committee of the Whole meeting, Grey County Council received Staff Report EDTC-CW-04-23 entitled “Beaver Valley Sustainable Tourism Strategy” (Attachment 1) for information purposes.

Grey County has contracted Bannikin to provide a Beaver Valley Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Action Plan with the following objectives:

1. To understand the background and context surrounding tourism in the Beaver Valley corridor
2. To gather insight, input, and feedback from a breadth and diversity of stakeholders
3. To identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges for tourism in the Beaver Valley
4. To co-create a sustainable tourism strategy with long term vision for the Beaver Valley corridor and confirm what action to take in the next few years
5. To establish a clear understanding of the roles, responsibilities, and resources required for implementing the actions identified.

Staff are recommending that investigations regarding partnerships for the protection of green space through the Beaver Valley Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Action Plan process, and with further consider once the strategy has been completed and reported back to the County of Grey and The Blue Mountains Council.

E. Strategic Priorities

1. Communication and Engagement

We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents and stakeholders

2. Organizational Excellence

We will continually seek out ways to improve the internal organization of Town Staff and the management of Town assets.

3. Community

We will protect and enhance the community feel and the character of the Town, while ensuring the responsible use of resources and restoration of nature.

4. Quality of Life

We will foster a high quality of life for full-time and part-time residents of all ages and stages, while welcoming visitors.

F. Environmental Impacts

The protection of regional green space.

G. Financial Impacts

Staff time to take part in the Beaver Valley Sustainable Tourism Strategy development process

H. In Consultation With

Senior Management Team

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has not been the subject of a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. However, any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Shawn Everitt, Chief Administrative Officer cao@thebluemountains.ca.

J. Attached

1. Grey County Staff Report EDTC-CW-04-23

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Everitt
Chief Administrative Officer

For more information, please contact:
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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	FAF.23.049 Investigating Partnerships for the Protection of Green Space.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment-1-Grey -County-Staff-Report-EDTC-CW-04-23.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Mar 2, 2023

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Shawn Everitt - Mar 2, 2023 - 12:50 PM