



# Staff Report

## Planning & Development Services

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**Report To:** COW-Operations\_Planning\_and\_Development\_Services  
**Meeting Date:** May 27, 2024  
**Report Number:** PDS.24.028  
**Title:** Request for Public Meeting for Craigleith Community Park  
**Prepared by:** Adam Smith, Director of Planning & Development Services

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### A. Recommendations

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THAT Council receive Staff Report PDS.24.028, entitled "Request for Public Meeting for Craigleith Community Park";

AND THAT Council direct staff to proceed with a public meeting upon the preparation of a design concept for the Craigleith Community Park.

### B. Overview

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This report is in response to direction provided by Council in [PDS.23.128](#). Staff proceeded with the creation of a public engagement strategy for those lands dedicated as parkland not only for Blue Vista but for Windfall and Second Nature. The strategy focused on launching a project webpage and community survey to gather public feedback on opportunities to activate the park area. With the community survey complete, staff are now seeking direction to proceed with an initial design concept and to present the design concept at the public meeting.

### C. Background

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Over the past several years, the Town has strategically acquired six hectares of parkland in Craigleith from Windfall, Second Nature, and Blue Vista development sites. This land was gained through the parkland dedication included in each development agreement. The intent is to transform the land into a regional community park for all to enjoy.

With site works occurring at Blue Vista, there was public concern regarding the vegetation removal within the park block and future vision for the area. Understanding the challenges in activating park spaces and installing features such as trails when a residential subdivision has received occupancies, staff identified an opportunity to proceed with park infrastructure as development was beginning to commence. Doing so also presents additional funding options including leveraging Development Charge credits in having the developer complete certain works.

From the onset of the project, the priority has been on necessary park infrastructure on Block 119 within the Blue Vista project boundaries. However, to do so, the concept needs to align with the vision for the balance of the 6 hectares that consist of the Craigleith Community Park. As a result, a public survey was conducted by the Town's Communications Department that invited members of the public to share their vision of the park, particularly the features and amenities that would entice them to visit. The survey was launched on February 5, 2024, and closed on February 26, 2024, and received a total of 943 responses.

The survey was advertised on the Town website, social media accounts and through the Town's e-newsletter. Notice of the public survey was also provided through direct mail to nearby properties and was advertised on signage installed around the park areas.

The key highlights from the Craigleith Community Park Survey include:

#### **Importance of general enhancements in the park**

A number of general enhancements have been proposed in the Craigleith Community Park. According to the vast majority of respondents, the most valuable among these — rated as *important* or *very important* — are walking paths (91%) and naturalized plantings/ shade trees (94%).

#### **Importance of recreational enhancements in the park**

In terms of recreational enhancements, accessible playground equipment (60%), seasonal ice-skating path/rink (54%) and pickleball courts (44%) are deemed to be the most important.

#### **Barriers to visiting parks in the Town of The Blue Mountains**

One in 3 respondents are undeterred from visiting existing parks in the Town of The Blue Mountains. For others, the primary deterrents are the lack of parking (27%), proximity (24%) and lack of facilities or amenities (21%).

#### **The likelihood of visiting Craigleith Community Park**

Encouragingly, 80% of respondents indicated that they are *very likely* or *likely* to visit Craigleith Community Park once it is complete.

A detailed summary of the survey responses is available in Attachment #1 to this report.

## **D. Analysis**

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Based on the results of the survey, staff are now positioned to proceed with preparing a design concept to be the subject of a future public meeting. Following this step, a preferred option will be selected and will serve to be the platform for future initiatives. As noted previously, the priority within the project area to move from design to construction is Block 119 (Figure 1)

In preparing a concept for the park, there can be an informed discussion at the public meeting that assists Council in providing direction on the future vision for the area. While the timing of the public meeting is subject to the completion of the concept, staff are tentatively targeting the September 10th, 2024, Public Meeting. In conjunction with Community Services, staff will seek to have the Craighleith Community Park within the scope of work for the consultant that will assist with the revitalization project at Moreau Park.

## E. Strategic Priorities

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

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**

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There are no environmental impacts associated with this report.

## **G. Financial Impacts**

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Preparation of the design concept will be funded through the Town's 2024 Operating Budget. Capital improvements to be included in a future development agreement and/or Town budget approvals.

## **H. In Consultation With**

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Ryan Gibbons, Director of Community Services

Tim Hendry, Manager of Communications and Economic Development

Rachael Magill, PDS Communications Coordinator

## **I. Public Engagement**

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The topic of this Staff Report will be the subject of a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre in accordance with the following schedule:

- May 27<sup>th</sup> 2024 Committee of the Whole – Request for Public Meeting
- June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 Council Meeting – Recommendation from Committee of the Whole considered by Council
- September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Public Meeting
- October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Committee of the Whole – Follow-up report to the Public Meeting, attaching comments received in response to the Public Meeting;
- November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Council – recommendation from Committee of the Whole considered by Council, and related By-law, if any

Any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Adam Smith,  
[directorplanningdevelopment@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:directorplanningdevelopment@thebluemountains.ca)

## **J. Attached**

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1. Attachment 1 – Craighleith Community Park Survey Report

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Smith  
Director of Planning & Development Services

For more information, please contact:  
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### Report Approval Details

Document Title:	PDS.24.028 Request for Public Meeting for Craigleith Community Park.docx
Attachments:	- PDS-24-028-Attachment-1.pdf
Final Approval Date:	May 1, 2024

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

**No Signature found**

**Shawn Everitt - May 1, 2024 - 8:59 AM**