



# Staff Report

## Community Services

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**Report To:** COW\_Finance\_Admin\_Fire\_Community\_Services  
**Meeting Date:** May 21, 2024  
**Report Number:** CSOPS.24.037  
**Title:** Moreau Park Revitalization Survey Results  
**Prepared by:** Ryan Gibbons, Director Community Services, Jason Petznick,  
Communications Coordinator

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### A. Recommendations

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THAT Council receive Staff Report CSOPS.24.037, entitled “Moreau Park Revitalization Survey Results” for information only;

### B. Overview

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Staff are providing an update on the status of the Moreau Park Revitalization Project, including a summary of public survey results and an outline of the next steps to be completed.

### C. Background

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The Thornbury-Clarksburg Rotary Club approached Town Council in September 2022 with the concept of revitalizing Moreau Park in Thornbury under the theme, “Kindness at Play.” The elements proposed included a new skate park for all ages and abilities, a year-round paved walking path, a sensory garden and an accessible playground. Council directed staff to include this project for consideration as an addition to the 2023 Town budget. \$45,000 was approved through the budget to be utilized for communications, consulting and project management through 2023 and 2024.

In September 2023, the Town launched a survey to gather initial feedback from the community regarding the project and the elements proposed through the Rotary Club’s “Kindness at Play” concept. It also included consideration of a number of elements identified through the Town’s Leisure Activities Plan and Resident Satisfaction Survey. The survey closed on October 15, 2023 with a total of 764 responses.

The project team is now looking to engage a consultant to assist with creating the conceptual design, including preparing high-level cost estimates to help the Town make a fully-informed decision on the elements to be included in the final design for consideration in the 2025 budget process.

## D. Analysis

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The initial public survey was open from September 20, 2023 to October 15, 2023. A total of 764 responses were received during this period. A detailed report of the survey findings has been included with this report as Attachment 1.

### Key Takeaways

#### *“Kindness at Play” Facility Priorities*

The “Kindness at Play” initiative introduced several facilities for potential inclusion in the redevelopment plan. Respondents were asked to rate how important it was to them that each of these facilities be included in the revitalization plan.

	Important or Very important	Neutral	Unimportant or Not at all important
Updated, accessible playground equipment	75%	18%	7%
Updated skateboard park for all ages and abilities	62%	25%	13%
Year-round paved walking path	55%	22%	23%
Asphalt bike park pump track	54%	26%	20%
Sensory garden	34%	34%	32%

#### *Feature and Amenity Priorities*

Moreau Park’s redevelopment will include several features and amenities. Respondents were asked to rate how important it was to them that each of these facilities be included in the revitalization plan.

	Important or Very important	Neutral	Unimportant or Not at all important
Fully-serviced washrooms	85%	11%	4%
Naturalized plantings / shade trees	85%	10%	5%
Sheltered areas	79%	15%	5%

Drinking water fountain	79%	14%	7%
Lighting	74%	18%	8%
Public art / sculptures	32%	38%	30%
Interpretive signage	27%	46%	27%

### *Facility Priorities*

The Town's Leisure Activity Plan and Resident Satisfaction Survey identified a number of facilities that could be included in the redevelopment plan. Respondents were asked to rate how important it was to them that each of these facilities be included in the revitalization plan.

	Important or Very important	Neutral	Unimportant or Not at all important
Seasonal ice skating path / rink	56%	24%	20%
Basketball courts / ball hockey surface	54%	29%	18%
Splash pad	52%	25%	23%
Outdoor pool	37%	25%	37%
Resurfacing of the baseball diamonds	36%	34%	30%
Toboggan hill	34%	28%	38%
Dog park with separate area for small dogs and large dogs	33%	33%	33%
Amphitheater / performance space	31%	35%	34%
Beach / grass volleyball courts	29%	35%	35%
Pickleball courts	24%	30%	46%
Tennis courts	20%	31%	49%

### *Space Allocation*

In considering the addition of new features or facilities to Moreau Park, respondents were asked about reallocating space currently occupied by existing facilities.

	More space	The same amount of space	Less space
Playground	45%	52%	3%
Skateboard park	36%	54%	10%
Parking	28%	63%	9%
Green space	24%	54%	22%
Off-leash dog park	15%	64%	21%
Baseball diamonds	7%	49%	44%

### *Common Comment Trends*

Respondents were asked for their additional thoughts, comments or concerns regarding the redevelopment of Moreau Park. The comments were reviewed, and the following are the key themes that emerged:

- While many are in support of improving the baseball infrastructure (diamonds, batting cages etc.) in the park, there is concern from survey respondents that the baseball diamonds are underutilized and should be reduced in number in favour of other amenities or located elsewhere.
- Respondents feel that many of the proposed amenities/ facilities are available elsewhere and therefore, are not needed at Moreau Park (e.g., parking, pickleball and tennis courts etc.) or should be located elsewhere (e.g., sensory garden etc.) Many are looking for improved or new amenities/ facilities that cannot be found elsewhere in the town.
- Respondents demonstrated very strong support for focusing on developing more facilities for the youth and children in the town (e.g., a skate park/ path, expanding and improving the playground, a bike pump track, an improved skateboard park, a splash pad etc.).
- Many respondents made calls to improve the dog park, even introduce an area limited to smaller dogs, while others suggest relocating the dog park to another part of the town.
- Other comments from respondents referred to the need for more washroom facilities, more trees, natural spaces and walking paths/ sidewalks, while others are concerned about costs, insurance liability and increased noise levels.

## **E. Strategic Priorities**

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### **1. Communication and Engagement**

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

### **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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Environmental impacts will be considered through design and construction. Preliminary conversations have taken place with local groups to participate in tree and some natural elements.

## **G. Financial Impacts**

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Budget for this stage of the project has been approved.

## **H. In Consultation With**

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Katie Love, Administrative Assistant Community Services

## **I. Public Engagement**

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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 Ryan Gibbons, Director Community Services [directorcs@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:directorcs@thebluemountains.ca).

## **J. Attached**

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1. Attachment 1 – Town of The Blue Mountains Report Moreau Park Survey 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Petznick  
Communications Coordinator

Ryan Gibbons  
Director Community Services

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

Document Title:	CSOPS.24.037 Moreau Park Revitalization Survey Results.docx
Attachments:	- Town-of-Blue-Mountain-Report-Moreau-Park-Survey-2023.pdf
Final Approval Date:	May 10, 2024

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

**Ryan Gibbons - May 10, 2024 - 9:11 AM**

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

**Ryan Gibbons - May 10, 2024 - 12:16 PM**