



Staff Report

Community Services

Report To: COW- Admin, Corp and Finance, SI, Comm. Services
Meeting Date: September 15, 2025
Report Number: CS.25.033
Title: Leisure Activity Plan and Parks, Trails and Open Space Masterplan 2026
Prepared by: Ryan Gibbons, Director of Community Services

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report CS.25.033, entitled "Leisure Activity Plan and Parks, Trails and Open Space Masterplan 2026";

AND THAT Council direct Staff to include the Leisure Activity Plan and Parks, Trails and Open Space Masterplan in the 2026 budget:

AND THAT Council direct staff to include a Task Force in the project following a consultant being hired.

B. Overview

Through the 2025 budget process Council directed staff to include the Parks, Trails and Open Space Masterplan in the 2026 budget and consider completing a comprehensive Leisure Activities Plan update including a Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan.

C. Background

Following amalgamation in 1998, The Town of The Blue Mountains approved the first Leisure Activities Plan in 2006. Following this, staff prepared an update in 2015 and 2020 with the support of a consultant.

The 2006 Leisure Activities Plan was developed by Town staff with consultants Monteith Brown. This has been a guiding document for Community Services staff which included many principles that are still relevant today including seeking partnerships with local organizations, private enterprises, and neighbouring municipalities. Significant interest in trails, waterfront, a multi-use recreation facility and financial accessibility remain as well.

The 2015 Leisure Activities Plan update was developed by Town staff and contract staff. This document provided a fulsome inventory update of all lands, properties and amenities that were

publicly owned at that time. This document focused on capital and operational action plans that laid out action plans on a 10-year horizon including regular maintenance costs.

The 2020 Leisure Activities Plan update was developed by Town staff, Dunbar & Associates Recreation Consultants, and the Leisure Activities Plan Steering committee. The update included the Dunbar & Associates consultant report including recommendations, an updated inventory of Parks, trails, facilities, amenities, a waterfront property review with proposed classifications as well as additional recommendations from the Steering committee.

The Dunbar & Associates report is the culmination of significant public consultation including 733 survey responses, 50 key stakeholder interviews and 3 focus group sessions. Dunbar & Associates conducted an in-depth review of the community feedback, demographics, recreation and leisure trends, the community profile, existing Town plans, properties, and amenities.

The parkland, facilities, cemeteries, trails, and waterfront reviews were completed by Community Services staff in consultation with staff in various Town departments. The Town owned or managed waterfront review was completed using previous work that had been completed by Town staff while reflecting any new properties, issues, or opportunities.

Earlier this year staff presented report CS.25.009, "Leisure Activities Plan Status Update" that provided the status of the 127 recommendations provided by the consultants. Currently, 91% of these are either complete, ongoing, or in progress with 11 outstanding items.

D. Analysis

At the February 27, 2023, Council meeting the following direction was given in response to Staff Report FAF.23.019 "Options for Establishing a Parks and Trails Advisory Committee for the 2022-2026 Term of Council":

AND THAT Council establish a working group of Council members to consider options for the establishment of a Parks and Trails Advisory Committee for the 2022 – 2026 Term of Council by appointing Councillor Maxwell and Councillor Porter, with Mayor Matrosovs as ex officio member, as the working group members;

AND THAT Council endorse Community Services Department staff being the lead staff resource available to the working group.

Due to a combination of capacity constraints and scoping issues related to the committee, this direction has experienced delays in being actioned. However, in supporting the inclusion of this project in the 2026 budget, staff believe the scope of work for the consultant could be inclusive of establishing the committee and ensuring it is appropriately resourced to be effective.

Building on the success of previous Leisure Activities Plans and resident satisfaction results, staff believe that the recommended 5 year update be coordinated with a Parks, Trails and Open Space master plan as a comprehensive strategic document for recreation and leisure in The Blue Mountains.

The update will include Capital and Operational action plans, public consultation, community engagement, resourcing review based on current and proposed service levels, service delivery methods, parkland inventory needs analysis, parkland development and redevelopment review and prioritization, review off leash dog park opportunities, review the Clendenan conservation area to determine a service level and make recommendations regarding the management of the property, parks, trails and open space ecological carrying capacities, review opportunities to naturalize areas and how these are managed, review the current inventory of open space properties and make recommendations on service levels and resourcing required to meet the service levels, make recommendations regarding alignment with other strategic documents including the Corporate Strategic Plan, Official Plan, Future Story, etc., make recommendations on physical and financial accessibility, programming, technology opportunities, economic impact analysis including revenue opportunities and social return on investment, risk management, education, inclusivity, partnerships, monitoring and evaluation to track the progress of plan goals.

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

Environmental impacts to be considered during the Master Plan process.

G. Financial Impacts

Leisure Activities Plan – Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan - \$210,000.00.

Detailed information regarding funding will be considered through the 2026 budget.

H. In Consultation With

None.

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 Ryan Gibbons, Director of Community Services directorcs@thebluemountains.ca.

J. Attached

1. Task Force Terms of Reference

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Gibbons
Director of Community Services

For more information, please contact:
Ryan Gibbons, Director of Community Services
directorcs@thebluemountains.ca
519-599-3131 extension 281

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	CS.25.033 Leisure Activity Plan and Parks and Trails Masterplan 2026.docx
Attachments:	- Att-1-Task-Force-Terms-of-Reference.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Sep 8, 2025

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

Ryan Gibbons - Sep 8, 2025 - 3:21 PM

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