



Staff Report

Community Services

Report To: Committee of the Whole
Meeting Date: June 15, 2021
Report Number: CSOPS.21.030
Title: Draft Leisure Activities Plan Update
Prepared by: Ryan Gibbons, Director Community Services

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report CSOPS.21.030, entitled "Draft Leisure Activities Plan Update";

AND THAT Council receives the Leisure Activities Plan Update 2020;

AND THAT Council approves the recommendations listed in the Leisure Activities Plan Update 2020 Executive Summary for consideration through future budget processes;

AND THAT Council directs staff to include a budget item in the 2022 budget to survey all Town owned waterfront properties that do not have current surveys;

AND THAT Council directs staff to address all encroachments on Town owned waterfront properties;

AND THAT Council directs staff to conduct a multi-use community hub facility study with funds that were approved in the 2021 budget process.

B. Overview

This report is bringing forward the Leisure Activities Plan Update 2020 for Council consideration. The Leisure Activities Plan Update 2020 brings together 733 survey responses, 50 key stakeholder interviews, 3 focus group sessions, consultant recommendations, an inventory update of Community Services facilities, trails, parks, and a review of proposed classification of all Town or managed waterfront properties.

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 is now bringing forward the 2020 update.

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 has been developed by Town staff, Dunbar & Associates Recreation Consultants, and the Leisure Activities Plan Steering committee. This update includes 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.

D. Analysis

The recommendations made in the consultant's report reflect the community consultation, Leisure Activities Plan Steering Committee feedback and Dunbar & Associates professional opinions.

The recommendations in this report reflect the Leisure Activities Plan Steering committee's review of the consultant's report, interim reports from the consultants, and experience in the community.

Following Council's consideration of this report and the Leisure Activities Plan update, staff will develop action plans based on Council's direction that may include a multi-use facility feasibility study, implementation of recommendations for town owned or managed waterfront properties, review the level of resources available, actively engage in the Official Plan update, consider options for committees, review options for partnerships ensuring regional opportunities are explored and consider new processes to engage residents relating to the planning and provision of leisure services.

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

Various recommendations that may be implemented from this report will have environmental impacts. Each recommendation that will be acted upon will receive an individual review of the environmental impacts it may have.

G. Financial Impacts

Recommendations from both reports will have various financial impacts and will be considered through appropriate budgets.

The 2021 approved budget includes \$140,000 to perform a Multi-Use Community Hub Feasibility Plan.

H. In Consultation With

Leisure Activities Plan Steering Committee

Terry Green, Manager of Parks and Trails

Aaron McMullen, Facility Maintenance Coordinator, Manager of BVCC/Tomahawk

Tanya Patterson, Administrative Assistant Community Services

I. Public Engagement

The Leisure Activities Plan Update has been subject to significant public consultation including a public survey, key stakeholder interviews, focus group sessions and Leisure Activities Plan Steering meetings that have taken place regularly since October which included at least one monthly meeting.

Any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Ryan Gibbons, Director Community Services directorcs@thebluemountains.ca

J. Attached

1. Leisure Activities Plan Update 2020 – Final Report April 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Gibbons
Director Community Services

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

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	CSOPS.21.030 Draft Leisure Activities Plan Update.docx
Attachments:	- Town of Blue Mountains - Leisure Activities Plan 2021-V3.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Jun 7, 2021

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

Ryan Gibbons - Jun 4, 2021 - 2:22 PM

Shawn Everitt - Jun 7, 2021 - 9:04 AM