



Committee of the Whole Report

Report Number: PR2023-007
Meeting Date: June 6, 2023
Title: Winter Use of Municipal Parks Update
Description: Provide an update on City Parks properties winter operations.
Author and Title: Jenn Johnson, Manager, Parks and Recreation

Recommendation(s):

That Report PR2023-007, **Winter Use of Municipal Parks Update**, be received;

That this recommendation be brought forward to Council for consideration at the next Regular Council Meeting.

Department Head: _____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Background:

At the Council Meeting of September 27, 2022, Council adopted the following resolution:

CR2022-328

That the correspondence from Peter Sanderson, Chair of the Parks Advisory Committee, **Relating to the Opening of Some City Parks during the Winter Months**, be received; and

That the correspondence (see Appendix A) be referred to staff for review and report back in Q2, 2023, with an overview of the potential Parks that could be considered for winter use, including what the associated costs and staff requirements would be.

This report addresses that direction.

Rationale:

The Kawartha Lakes Parks Advisory is a Committee of Council to assist staff and make high level recommendations regarding the City's Parks system;

The mandate of the Kawartha Lakes Parks Advisory Committee is to advise on significant park developments across the municipality, as well as trail system development. This includes the development of park policy, and promoting and maintaining communication with the public on park property needs and projects.

This specific recommendation asked staff to review our Winter Parks Operations and the Committee is aware of this report to Council.

Municipal park properties are currently open/maintained from April to October. The properties listed below currently, or have historically, remain(ed) open, with full or limited maintenance, year round.

- Logie Park, Lindsay
- Bobcaygeon Beach Park, Bobcaygeon
- Garnet Graham Park, Fenelon Falls
- Northlin Park, Lindsay*
- Orchard Park, Lindsay*
- Victoria Park, Lindsay*
- Riverview Park, Lindsay*

- Flynn Park, Lindsay
- Springdale Park, Lindsay*
- Manorview Park, Lindsay*
- Kinsmen Park, Lindsay*
- Legion Park, Coboconk*
- Burnt River CC, Burnt River*
- Tommy Anderson Park, Bobcaygeon*

*These properties have hosted an outdoor rink (ODR) in previous years. There is a water box available in these locations to support the development of an ODR. A community volunteer initiative dictates if a particular property will offer an ODR annually. Typically parks that host an ODR receive minimal service from municipal staff.

Logie Park in Lindsay is open and maintained year-round, including the washroom facility. During the winter months, the parking lot is maintained as well as the path from the parking area to the main building.

Bobcaygeon Beach Park is open and receives limited maintenance year-round. During the winter months, the road side path is maintained from the west to east end of the park.

Over the past few years, there has been an increase in the demand for park properties to be maintained during the winter months, predominantly to be used for walking (including dog walking). Comments received from residents indicate that there is an increased interest in utilizing municipal parks and trails, throughout the entire year, to be physically active. Parks and Recreation staff recognize the benefit access to parkland has on mental and physical health. This expanded use would require additional staffing, funding and equipment resources for snow removal, garbage collection, parking/walkway winter maintenance, etc.

Current staff, equipment and budget resources have not permitted this increase in service level. If an increase in service level is desired by Council a corresponding increase to resources would be required. The value of the increase has not yet been determined, but can be calculated by staff if needed. Criteria should be developed to determine a property's eligibility to receive the increased service level (i.e. parking area available, community demand, feasibility).

Other Alternatives Considered:

At the present time the City operates a number of parks for winter use, some full use and some partial use. The City is currently at capacity based on staffing and funding resources for current operations. If Council wishes to consider more winter use of parks they could direct staff to report back on costing and funding and resource requirements for future consideration.

Alignment to Strategic Priorities

This report aligns with the following strategic priorities within the 2020-2023 Kawartha Lakes Strategic Plan:

1. Healthy Environment
2. An Exceptional Quality of Life
3. A Vibrant and Growing Economy
4. Good Government

[Kawartha Lakes Strategic Plan 2020-2023](#)

Financial/Operation Impacts:

The recommendations related to this report have no associated direct impact to the current budget. If Council wishes to recommend an expanded winter use of parks staff will report back on costing and include in future operational budget deliberations.

Consultations:

Kawartha Lakes Parks Advisory Committee

Attachments:

Appendix A: Correspondence from Kawartha Lakes Parks Advisory Committee



Winter Use of Parks
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