



Committee of the Whole Report

Report Number: CS2025-002
Meeting Date: March 4, 2025
Title: Wilson Estate Update
Author and Title: LeAnn Donnelly, Executive Assistant, Community Services

That Report CS2025-002, **Wilson Estate 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:

Leroy Percival Wilson was a prominent resident of the Town of Lindsay who took a keen interest in the Lindsay community. As a local business owner and avid boater, he saw the great potential of the Scugog River and its banks as a place for people to enjoy their community and recreation. Upon his death in 1981, Mr. Wilson's Will outlined his desire for a high standard of parks for the town. As part of his legacy, he would provide funds annually through the Roy Wilson Park Endowment for maintenance, improvement, operation, and expansion of parks within the Town of Lindsay. These funds were not to be used as a tax relief or for normal budgetary expenses, but to supplement and provide a high standard of park service for residents.

Upon amalgamation in 2000 from the Town of Lindsay to the City of Kawartha Lakes the transition board recommended that a Committee be put in place to allow for the continuing distribution of Wilson Estate funds as set out in the Will of Leroy Wilson. The Wilson Estate Advisory Committee is a Committee of Council that operates through the Community Services Division. It is composed of three Council representatives appointed by Council each four-year term, staff from the Community Services Division, and the Executors for Wilson Estate.

The funding received annually from Wilson Estate comes from the interest on the principal of the fund and varies each year based on the rate of return. The Community Services Department submits project requests for approval by the Estate, followed by approval of project costs. The Estate will then advise how much funding is available for disbursement. Funding support is received through three programs; an annual maintenance contribution, for 50/50 funded park improvement projects, and to support major capital initiatives.

This report is for information only.

Rationale:

Annual Maintenance Program

Each year \$90,000 is received from Wilson Estate as an annual maintenance contribution for parks within Lindsay. As indicated above, this contribution is not to provide a tax relief to residents but is to enhance services and maintain a high park standard. This amount is received by Treasury to the operating budget for Lindsay Parks.

50/50 Funded Park Improvement Projects

Each year the city receives \$55,000 from Wilson Estate for approved 50/50 funded minor park improvement projects valuing a total of \$110,000. The City's portion of the program is approved annually during the capital budget development. The list below outlines previous 50/50 funded projects supported by Wilson Estate and the City's capital budget program:

- Iron Bridge Switchback
- Memorial Park Tennis Courts Rehabilitation
- Victoria Park Flagpole Removal/Tree Installation
- Nayoro Park Walkway
- Old Mill Walkway
- Wilson Field Optimist Storage Building
- McDonnell Park Gazebo Refurbishment (Lindsay St. and Bond St.)
- Wilson Estate Recognition Program
- Shaft Park Gate Refurbishment
- Old Mill Park Washroom Refurbishment
- Rivera Park Washroom Refurbishment
- Wilson Fields Trail connection to Kent Street
- Wilson Fields Play Structure Installation

Major Capital Initiatives

Funding received by Wilson Estate for Major Capital Initiatives can be received over a single year or multiple years depending on the size and scope of the project. Once major capital initiatives are approved by Wilson Estate, they are managed within our Capital Budget program however are not part of the Council approved Capital Budget. This funding has allowed us to complete major capital improvements to several municipal parks, as well as enhancing public trails along the Scugog shoreline. The list below outlines previous major capital initiatives funded by Wilson Estate:

- Orchard Park Improvements
- Elgin Park Improvements
- Old Mill Park Redevelopment
- McDonnell Park East Redevelopment
- McDonnell Park West Redevelopment
- South East Lindsay Park Development - Nayoro to Riverview Connection
- Rivera Park Trail/Shoreline Improvements

In 2025 the City will continue to work closely with Wilson Estate Executors to determine funding availability for future projects. In addition, staff are continuing to work on a Wilson Estate recognition program and creating an interactive webpage for the public to learn about Mr. Wilson, the history of the Wilson Estate Endowment Fund, and information on Wilson Estate funded projects.

Other Alternatives Considered:

No other alternatives are recommended.

Alignment to Strategic Priorities

The recommendations in this report align with the following strategic priority within 2024-2027 Kawartha Lakes Strategic Plan:

An Exceptional Quality of Life – enhancing community areas and encouraging social and healthy interactions.

A Healthy Environment – protecting and preserving natural areas while providing and maintaining parks and trails for community use.

Good Government – working collaboratively with members of our community to foster teamwork within our communities.

Financial/Operation Impacts:

This is a volunteer Advisory Committee with no financial/operation impacts.

Servicing Implications:

There are no servicing implications associated with this report.

Consultations:

Director, Community Services

Manager, Parks and Recreation

Attachments:

N/A

Department Head email: jjohnson@kawarthalakes.ca

Department Head: Jenn Johnson, Director of Community Services