

Date: 2020-09-17

Subject: **Budget Amendment: Outdoor Winter Recreational Amenities – COVID-19 Proposal and Request to Begin Procurement**

Contact: Derek Boyce, Acting Commissioner, Community Services,
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Recommendations:

1. THAT the report titled **Budget Amendment: Outdoor Winter Recreational Amenities – COVID-19 Proposal and Request to Begin Procurement** to the Committee of Council Meeting of September 23, 2020 be received; and
2. THAT Council approve the proposal outlined in this report to implement three (3) new outdoor skating rinks, one (1) new outdoor skating trail, one (1) new outdoor cross-country ski and snowshoe trail and additional outdoor pop-up programming for the 2020/2021 season; and
3. THAT the Purchasing Agent be authorized to commence the procurement for construction work and services in connection with the new outdoor amenities; and
4. THAT a budget amendment be approved and a new capital project be established in the amount of \$1.4 Million for the implementation of Outdoor Winter Recreational Amenities, with funding of \$1.4 Million to be transferred from Reserve #134 – Recreation Development Charges.

Overview:

- In recent weeks, the number of COVID-19 positive cases has continued to rise, and in anticipation of a potential second wave that may lead to facility closures, staff have begun to explore opportunities to offer additional outdoor winter programming and amenities that would allow for residents to remain healthy and active throughout the colder months in a safe and socially distanced manner.

- The City of Brampton is currently home to four (4) outdoor skating rinks and trails, located at Chinguacousy Park, Gage Park, Mount Pleasant, and Gore Meadows Community Centre. Chinguacousy Park is also home to Mount Chinguacousy, offering tubing, skiing, and snowboarding.
- In addition to the City's inventory of outdoor skating rinks, the Parks Division historically supports the operations and maintenance of a number of resident community outdoor ice rinks across the City.
- To supplement existing amenities for the 2020/2021 season, staff are investigating the addition of two (2) outdoor artificial skating rinks located at Flower City Community Campus and Earnscliffe Park and one (1) pilot synthetic ice rink located at Allan Kerbel Park. In addition, staff are investigating one (1) new outdoor artificial skating trail located at Morris Kerbel Park and one (1) new outdoor cross-country ski/show shoe trail at Chinguacousy Park.
- Staff are continuing to investigate the power requirements and feasibility of sourcing additional power at all of the aforementioned locations. Staff will need to engage the local utility company to bring any additional power required to the sites, and the ability for the utility company to complete the work required to bring additional power to these sites in a timely manner is a significant risk to three of the five projects.
- The total estimated cost to implement the full proposal is approximately \$1.4 Million, based on quotes received from staff from multiple vendors. While not confirmed at present, there may be potential to recoup up to \$250,000 through an anticipated government funding program specifically related to outdoor recreational amenities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Amenities may also be eligible to receive funding through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: COVID-19 Resilience Stream. Staff will work closely with the Government Relations team to explore and submit to any applicable opportunities.
- Staff are requesting that Council authorize staff to begin the procurement of construction work and services in connection with the new outdoor amenities. Staff are also requesting a budget amendment be approved and a new capital project be established in the amount of \$1.4 Million for the implementation of the proposed amenities.

- **In accordance with the Purchasing By-Law, a competitive public procurement process must be conducted for procurements greater than \$100,000. While staff will work to expedite the process as much as possible, implementation timelines are very tight, as engaging proposed vendors through the procurement process and the necessary work of the utility company will require sufficient time.**

Background

In recent weeks, the number of COVID-19 positive cases has continued to rise, and in anticipation of a potential second wave that may lead to facility closures, staff have begun to explore opportunities to offer additional outdoor winter programming and amenities that would allow for residents to remain healthy and active throughout the colder months in a safe and socially distanced manner.

For a number of years, the Parks Division has also supported the operation and maintenance of small citizen-run community rinks, through a process in which residents submit a request to the City for staff support. The Community Ice Rink Program provides support to residents in the form of water sources, initial training and select equipment to support rink operations, maintenance of the site surrounding the rink, and appropriate signage. The Parks Division is prepared and committed to continue to support residents in the operation and maintenance of neighbourhood rinks throughout the City for the 2020/2021 season.

At the Committee of Council meeting of September 9, 2020, staff presented a high-level proposal for additional outdoor amenities to allow for more socially distanced recreational opportunities for residents in the event a second wave does present itself. Following the presentation, Council directed staff to return with additional information regarding the proposal, including obtaining multiple price quotes to implement the additional amenities.

Current Situation:

The City of Brampton is currently home to four (4) outdoor skating rinks and trails, located at Chinguacousy Park, Gage Park, Mount Pleasant, and Gore Meadows Community Centre. Chinguacousy Park is also home to Mount Chinguacousy, offering tubing, skiing, and snowboarding.

To supplement existing amenities for the 2020/2021 season, staff are proposing the addition of two (2) outdoor artificial skating rinks located at Flower City Community Campus and Earnscliffe Park and one (1) pilot synthetic ice rink located at Allan Kerbel Park. In addition, staff are proposing the addition of one (1) outdoor artificial skating trail

located at Morris Kerbel Park and one (1) outdoor cross-country ski/show shoe trail at Chinguacousy Park.

In speaking with Alectra Utilities, the implementation of the required power supply at the proposed locations may take up to three months. Staff will endeavour to work with Alectra to attempt to expedite the power servicing at the required locations where the current power supply is either nonexistent or insufficient for ice refrigeration, however implementation of the proposed amenities in time for resident use for the 2020/2021 season will be largely dependent on the ability to significantly reduce the typical timelines associated with power servicing.

Since the original presentation, staff have obtained additional pricing quotes from multiple vendors for all locations and explored options for both synthetic and artificial ice. The total estimated cost to implement all amenities is \$1.4 Million, which includes an estimated \$300,000 related to the aforementioned required power servicing.

Staff are requesting that Council authorize staff to begin the procurement of construction work and services in connection with the new outdoor amenities. As per the Purchasing By-Law, a competitive public procurement process must be conducted for procurements greater than \$100,000. While staff will work to expedite the process as much as possible, implementation timelines are very tight, as engaging proposed vendors through the procurement process and the necessary work of the utility company will require sufficient time.

Staff have also developed a plan to introduce winter pop-up programming, comprised of free outdoor drop-in activities for children and families geographically dispersed across the City. Examples of potential programs include snowman and fort building, snow/ice art, scavenger hunts, snow sports, and snowshoeing. All programs will be vetted to ensure that they are complying with Provincial guidelines, and programs will be weather dependent and scheduled or adjusted as required. There is no anticipated additional cost to implementing these programs, as a portion of Recreation's 2020 program budget will be reallocated to fund any additional COVID-19 pop-up programming for this season.

Additionally, as a result of consultation with the Brampton Sports Alliance, the snowshoeing program at Chinguacousy Park will augment the artificial ice installations throughout the City, and based on suggestions from Council at the last Committee meeting, staff will also investigate activities that promote health and wellness throughout the winter months.

To ensure the safety of residents and staff, implementation of appropriate COVID-19 precautions will be enforced, including but not limited to self-screening, capacity limits and social distancing guidelines.

The proposed additional outdoor assets will be maintained by Community Services staff. Additional labour may be required to support monitoring (e.g. skate patrol) and day to day maintenance (e.g. flooding, and ice edging) of these new outdoor amenities, however, given the labour reduction associated with the current COVID-19 pandemic, this amount will be absorbed in the Community Services 2020/2021 operating budget. The City will also amend its existing contract with the City's ice maintenance vendor to further support these amenities. Any additional operating equipment has been factored into the aforementioned proposed estimate.

While not confirmed at present, there may be the potential to recoup up to \$250,000 through an anticipated government funding program specifically related to outdoor recreational amenities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Amenities may also be eligible to receive funding through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: COVID-19 Resilience Stream. Staff will work closely with the Government Relations team to explore and submit to any applicable opportunities.

Corporate Implications:

Financial Implications:

A new capital project will need to be established in the amount of \$1.4 Million for the implementation of Outdoor Winter Recreational Amenities, under the Parks Division. Funding for this initiative, totaling \$1.4 Million will be transferred from Reserve #134 – Recreation Development Charges.

Staff will work closely with the Government Relations team to explore and submit to any applicable opportunities to recoup funds to the extent possible through anticipated government funding programs available.

Any required ongoing operating costs for the proposed amenities will be included as part of the 2021 Budget Submission, subject to Council approval.

Legal Implications:

N/A

Other Implications:

Purchasing

A public Procurement Process will be conducted and the lowest compliant Bid will be eligible for contract award. Purchase approval shall be obtained in accordance with the Purchasing By-law.

All communication with Bidders involved in the procurement must occur formally, through the contact person identified in the Bid Document.

Term of Council Priorities:

This report supports the Term of Council Priorities and the 2040 Vision.

Through stewardship of assets and services, and a focus on service excellence, this report demonstrates that Brampton is a Well Run City.

Through enhancing the City's inventory of recreation and sports facilities to increase access to programs for residents, this report demonstrates that Brampton is a Healthy and Safe City.

Conclusion:

In preparation for a potential second wave of COVID-19, staff have explored options to provide residents with increased opportunities to stay healthy through recreation programming and amenities in a safe and socially distanced manner.

To supplement existing outdoor amenities, staff are requesting authorization to implement two (2) outdoor artificial skating rinks located at Flower City Community Campus and Earnscliffe Park and one (1) pilot synthetic ice rink located at Allan Kerbel Park. In addition, staff are proposing the addition of one (1) outdoor skating trail located at Morris Kerbel Park and one (1) outdoor cross-country ski/show shoe trail at Chinguacousy Park.

Staff are requesting that Council approve the proposal for outdoor winter recreational amenities, authorize staff to commence the procurement of construction work and services in connection with the proposed outdoor amenities and approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$1.4 Million, as outlined in this report.

Authored by:

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Reviewed and Approved by:

*Derek Boyce
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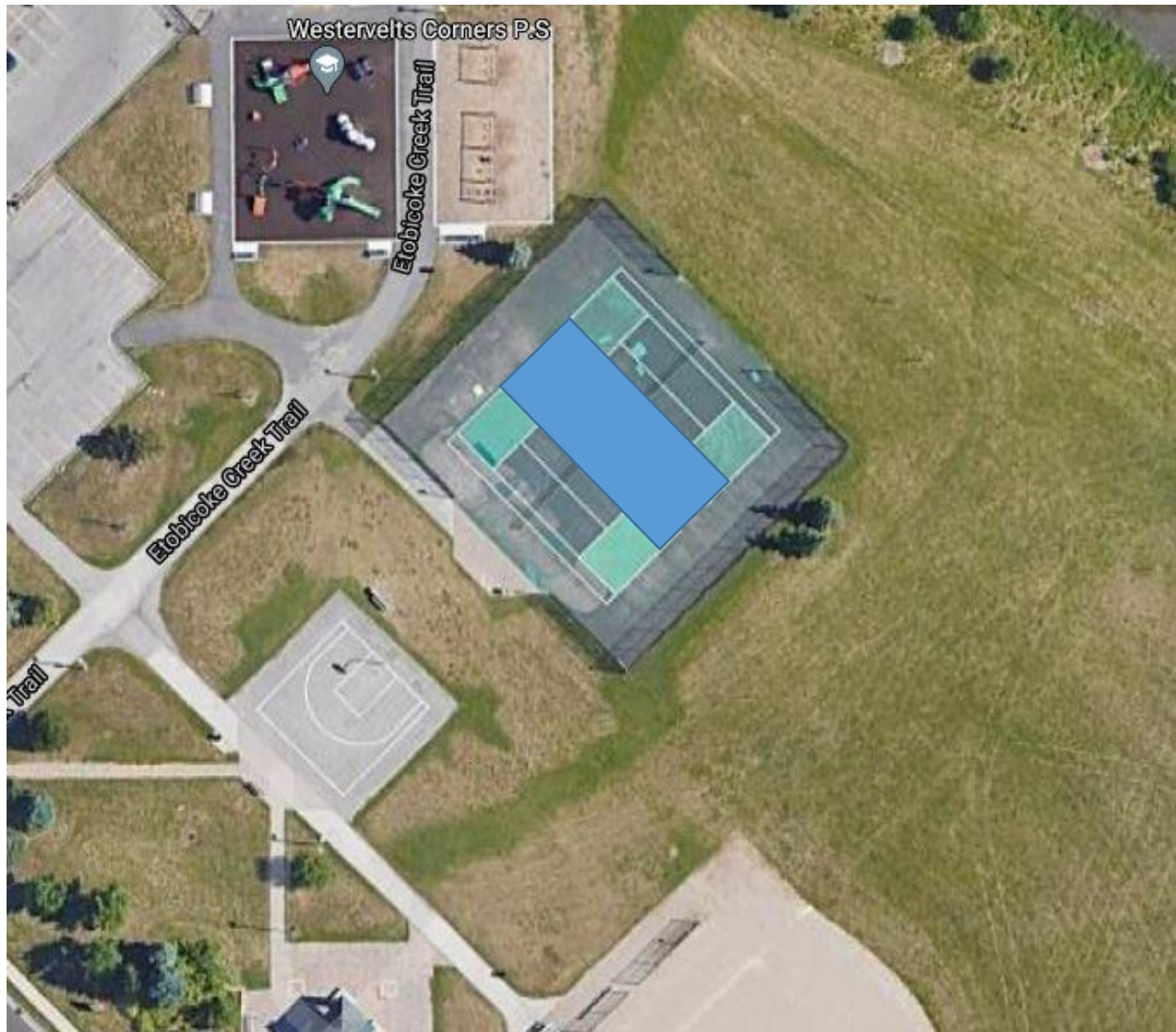
Submitted by:

*David Barrick,
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Attachments:

Appendix A: Outdoor Skating Rinks & Trail – Proposed Locations

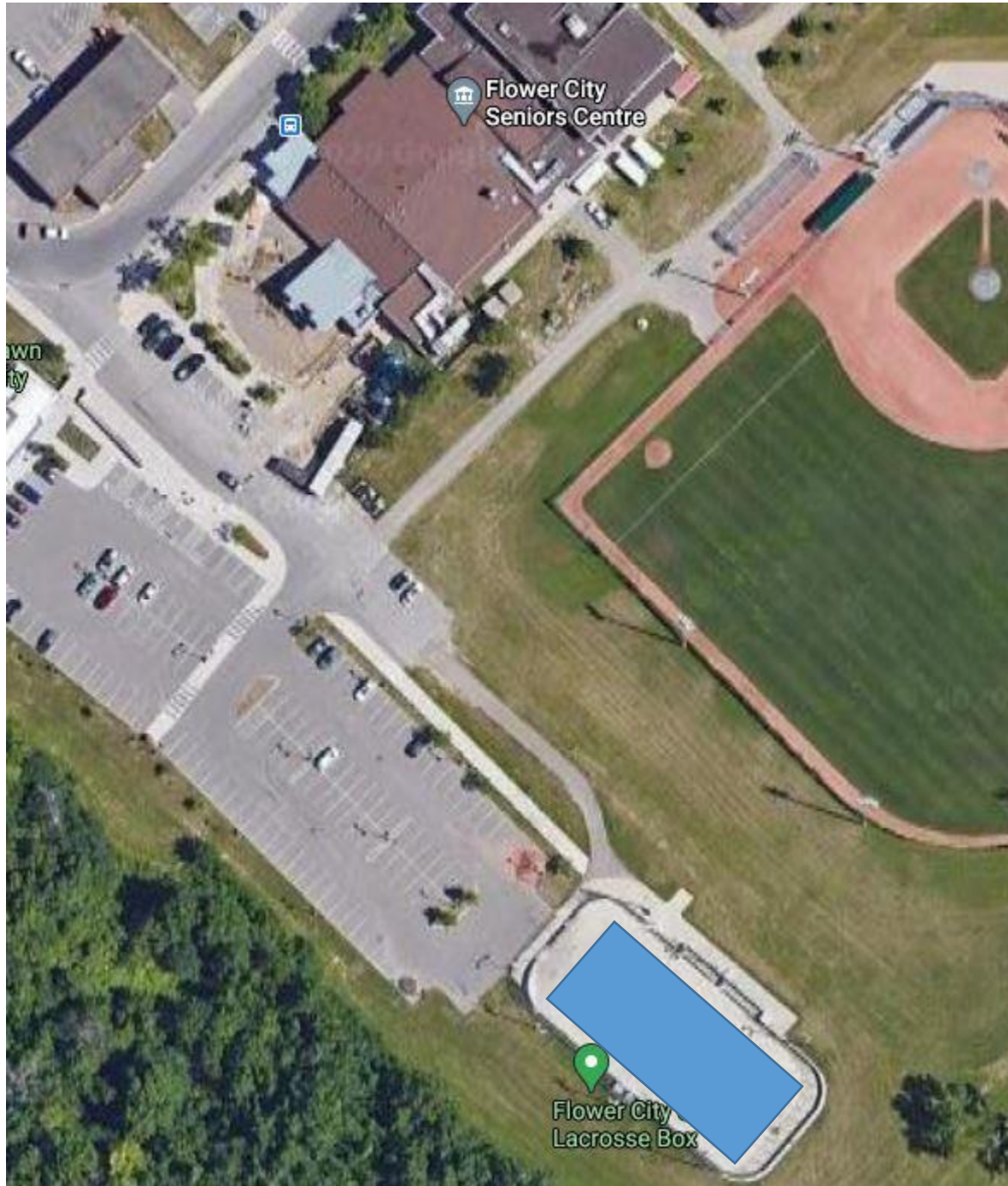
Allan Kerbel Park Ice Rink:



Earnscliffe Ice Rink:



Flower City Ice Rink:



Morris Kerbal Park Skating Trail Option A:



Morris Kerbal Park Skating Trail Option B:

