

Date: 2023-04-19

Subject: **The City of Brampton and ParticipACTION Partnership to Provide Active-lifestyle Park Components in Bramalea Ltd Community Park (Ward 7)**

Contact: Ed Fagan, Director, Parks Maintenance and Forestry

Report Number: Community Services-2023-366

Recommendations:

1. That the report from Werner Kuemmling, Manager, Park Planning and Development, dated April 19, 2023, to the Committee of Council Meeting of May 10, 2023, re: **The City of Brampton and ParticipACTION Partnership to Provide Active-lifestyle Park Components in Bramalea Ltd Community Park (Ward 7)**, be received.

Overview:

- **ParticipACTION is a national non-profit organization that inspires and supports Canadians to make physical activity as part of their everyday life to promote physical and mental health.**
- **The City of Brampton has been selected to partner with ParticipACTION to enhance an existing City park through the implementation of additional free and accessible park components that will encourage physical activity in nature.**
- **The first stage of the partnership program will be the design phase and will proceed throughout 2023, with ParticipACTION leading the design, public consultation sessions and community outreach. The cost of the design stage will be funded by ParticipACTION, with the City contributing staff time to provide input into the design process as well as provide venues for a number of public meetings with various community and interest groups.**
- **The second stage of the partnership program will be the implementation phase which is scheduled to commence in 2024, where ParticipACTION**

will apply for Federal funding to support at least 50 percent of the implementation cost of the project.

- **The preliminary construction budget suggested by ParticipACTION is \$250,000. The City will be responsible for 50 percent of the construction costs; final costs will be established once the design of the park is completed and staff will report back to Council with a detailed report on the implementation costs and the cost-share structure with ParticipACTION.**
- **After reviewing several candidate park sites in Brampton, Parks Maintenance and Forestry staff recommend Bramalea Ltd Community Park as an appropriate park for this partnership program. The selection criteria was based on park size, central location, exposure to different Brampton socio-economic communities, accessibility and the current service level of exercise stations and active play activities.**

Background:

In February 2022, discussions with the City of Brampton and ParticipACTION were initiated to participate in a partnership program spear-headed by ParticipACTION. ParticipACTION is a national non-profit organization that inspires and supports Canadians to make physical activity as part of their everyday life to promote physical and mental health.

This partnership project is a Canada-wide program called ParticiPARK. The program invites four municipalities nation-wide to participate in the re-design of existing park land by introducing exercise stations and active play areas within the park, to advance physical activity and increase mental and physical health in the communities. The City of Brampton has been selected to be one of the four municipalities.

Throughout 2022 and early 2023 discussions between ParticipACTION and Parks Maintenance and Forestry staff progressed in formalizing a partnership to identify a City of Brampton park that would be an appropriate site to facilitate the ParticiPARK program, serving a diverse Brampton community. After considering various City park locations, Parks Maintenance and Forestry staff identified Bramalea Ltd Community Park as an appropriate candidate site for this partnership program. This park was chosen as it fulfilled the following criteria:

- Central location accessible by car, public transportation, cycling and walking;
- Proximity of various neighbourhoods and is utilized by a diverse cross section of Brampton's population;

- Existing sports fields, a leash-free dog park, parking facilities, playgrounds, a large pathway system, open maintained lawn areas and unmaintained naturalized areas;
- Additional park components such as exercise stations and active play areas would enhance the park's function; and
- Ability to accommodate meaningful integration of active lifestyle facilities based on adequate park size (15.5Ha).

The ParticiPARK program consists of two phases. The first phase will be the re-design of a designated section of the park and the second phase will be the implementation of the new infrastructure.

Current Situation:

Phase 1 - Design

This phase of the ParticiPARK partnership program will proceed throughout 2023 and will be funded entirely by ParticipACTION. ParticipACTION has secured Federal funding for the design phase through '*The Healthy Canadians and Communities Fund*' (HCCF). The City of Brampton, however, will assign staff to serve on the local advisory group to facilitate the design process and to review the ParticiPARK design.

ParticipACTION will work with City staff, local Councillors and community groups to facilitate the selective re-design of Bramalea Ltd Community Park, which would provide new exercise stations, active play area and other infrastructure to further a physically active lifestyle in the community. ParticipAction will provide the design of the park and the exact programming of the activity components in consultation with City staff and community input, through various Community Workshops. ParticipACTION will facilitate public workshops and the City will provide appropriate venues for the workshops to be held.

Within the next five months the following steps, as suggested by ParticipACTION, will be initiated to aid the design process of this ParticiPARK project:

- The ParticipACTION team will present a slide presentation to Council to explain and promote the partnership program.
- A local advisory group consisting of multi-sectoral leaders (City staff, health, education) and health-equity seeking community members will be established to provide input to the program and design of the activity stations in Bramalea Ltd Community Park.
- The local advisory group will participate in meetings with the ParticipACTION team to provide input and to keep the project on track.
- The deliverables through the design phase will entail a detailed park re-design, showing the added active-lifestyle exercise station and the cost breakdown for the implementation

Phase 2 - Implementation

This phase will commence in 2024 and will be facilitated through a separate agreement between the City of Brampton and ParticipACTION. ParticipACTION will apply for Federal funding under this program. The minimum amount that ParticipACTION will apply for is 50 percent of the implementation cost. The balance will need to be funded by the City of Brampton.

The anticipated total cost for the implementation is \$250,000. This amount may vary as the design evolves and feedback regarding the park programming from the local advisory group is obtained. A future report to Council recommending this expenditure will follow, once the design of the park is completed and a cost estimate is finalized.

Corporate Implications:

Financial Implications:

There are no immediate financial implications as a direct result of this report.

Phase 1 - Design will be funded entirely by ParticipACTION.

Phase 2 - Implementation is anticipated to cost \$250,000, but may vary as the design evolves and feedback is obtained regarding the park programming from the local advisory group, of which 50 percent will be covered by ParticipACTION through federal funding, with the balance to be funded by the City.

Upon completion of the design phase, staff will return to Council with a report outlining the timelines, design details and capital budget request for the City's share of the final cost required to proceed with implementing the re-design of Bramalea Ltd Community Park.

Term of Council Priorities:

This report supports the following Term of Council Priorities:

- Brampton is a Green City – Implement a Green Framework
- Brampton is a Healthy and Safe City – Continue to design and build new activity hubs to provide accessible spaces and play elements to residents of all ages and abilities

Conclusion:

The ParticiPARK partnership program between the City of Brampton and ParticipACTION is an important mechanism to provide “Active Lifestyle” activity components to Bramalea Ltd Community Park. This partnership and the Federal funding opportunities that exist through this program, facilitate a cost-effective way to promote a healthy life style and physical activity in a large and diverse community in Brampton.

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Attachments:

Appendix A – Location Map and Site Photo, Bramalea Ltd Community Park
Appendix B – ParticiPARK Design Phase Partner Summary (excerpt)