

City of Mississauga Corporate Report



Date: February 9, 2021 To: Mayor and Members of Council	Originator's files:
From: Shari Lichterman, CPA, CMA, Commissioner of Community Services	Meeting date: February 17, 2021

Subject

Outdoor Skating Amenities and Gulleden Park Re-development (Ward 3)

Recommendation

That the Corporate Report dated February 9, 2021, entitled "Outdoor Skating Amenities and Gulleden Park Re-development" from the Commissioner of Community Services be received for information.

Report Highlights

- Future Directions Master Planning process is undertaken every 5 years by Community Services and provides public input on trends affecting services and helps shape capital budgets for the 10-year capital plan.
- Burnhamthorpe Community Centre re-development was identified as a high priority during public consultation through Future Directions 2019. The addition of a pool and fitness facility necessitated the removal of the Burnhamthorpe Outdoor Rink, which has traditionally been under-utilized.
- A number of residents have recently contacted the City to express concern over the elimination of the outdoor rink and propose that the City review the opportunity to expand outdoor rinks across the City. With Covid-19 restrictions, outdoor amenities have seen a noticeable increase in utilization.
- Council directed staff to review feasibility of adding additional outdoor rinks in the City.
- Gulleden Park (adjacent to Burnhamthorpe Community Centre) is scheduled for re-development in 2022-2023 immediately following the Community Centre re-development.
- Parks, Forestry and Environment staff will be expediting a public engagement process for Gulleden Park to ensure a fulsome review of amenity needs in advance of the 2022 Capital Budget, including looking at the option of outdoor skating amenities at this location.
- Parks, Forestry and Environment staff, in consultation with Recreation will bring forward a

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report to Council in late 2021 on the installation and budget options for outdoor rinks City-wide including permanent refrigerated, temporary refrigerated, synthetic skating rinks and skating trails.

Background

Future Directions Master Plans are undertaken by Community Services every 5 years. These plans help identify key service issues and emerging trends. Through extensive consultation in 2019, there was clear support for the re-development of Burnhamthorpe Community Centre.

The scope of the project includes a 25 metre, six-lane pool, a warm water therapy pool, fitness centre (including cardio, weight equipment and an exercise studio), new and enhanced multi-purpose spaces, and minor renovations to the gymnasium and existing indoor arena. This design addresses the anticipated population growth and changing demographics in the Rathwood-Applewood community.

The Parks and Forestry Future Directions planning process examined pressures for outdoor amenities and identified a number of gaps including shade structures, multi-sport courts, trails (summer and winter use) and leash-free areas. Outdoor skating facilities were not identified by the public as a need to be addressed through the planning process.

Present Status

With continuing Covid-19 restrictions in place, the demand for outdoor recreational amenities remains consistently high. Outdoor natural rink programs have been expanded to 37 locations for the 2020-2021 season. Limited capacities at Burnhamthorpe Outdoor Rink, Celebration Square and Woodhurst outdoor rinks have resulted in pre-registered time slots being full shortly after they are posted.

A number of residents have recently contacted the City to express concern over the elimination of the outdoor rink at Burnhamthorpe Community Centre and Council directed staff to review the opportunity to expand outdoor rinks and skating facilities across the City.

Gullden Park (adjacent to Burnhamthorpe Community Centre) is scheduled for re-development in 2022-2023 immediately following the Community Centre re-development. Parks, Forestry and Environment staff will be expediting a public engagement process for Gullden Park to ensure a fulsome review of amenity needs in advance of the 2022 Capital Budget, including looking at the option of including an outdoor rink at this location.

Gullden Park re-development includes the refurbishment of an existing playground, sport field and contemplated the inclusion of a shade structure and additional amenities. Total budget allocated for the re-development is \$2.315M.

The public consultation will begin in March 2021, which will include the creation of a project website, online survey, and mail out survey to local residents and will be promoted by a social

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media campaign. Expediting the public engagement process will allow City staff to look at various amenity options and make any changes to the project scope and budget prior to the 2022 Capital Budget process.

Following the consultation for Gulleden Park and at Council's direction, Community Services staff will be bringing a report forward to Council late 2021 to identify possible locations, costing and evaluation of various options to further expand outdoor skating facilities. This timing allows for the completion of the planning for Gulleden Park to determine if a rink will be added and allows for the progression to a COVID recovery stage where staff can properly evaluate the lasting recreational preferences of residents.

Comments

Community input into the planned re-development of Gulleden Park will be summarized and results on next steps will be communicated through the project website. Project design will be completed in 2021 and any changes to the program will be reflected in the 2022 Capital Budget.

Financial Impact

There are no budget impacts associated with this report. Any changes in amenities and associated budget for the Gulleden Park re-development will be reflected in the 2022 Capital Budget Process.

Costs and location options for additional outdoor skating amenities will be presented to Council in fall 2021 and incorporated in future year budgets.

Conclusion

Outdoor skating amenities have experienced increased utilization during indoor amenity to Covid-19 closures. City staff will pursue the possibility of including outdoor skating amenities at Gulleden Park and other locations city-wide.



Shari Lichterman, CPA, CMA, Commissioner of Community Services

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