



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Community & Recreation Services

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Paul Anthony, Director Community & Recreation Services

Date to Council: February 8, 2022

Report Number: CRS-2022-01

Subject: 2022 Parks Capital Works Plan

Recommendations

It is recommended:

That the 2022 Parks Capital Projects as summarized in Attachment 1 to Report CRS-2022-1, 2022 Parks Capital Works Plan, **be approved**

And that the 2022 Parks Capital Projects **be funded** through the Lifecycle Reserves, the Infrastructure Reserve and available grants as set out in Attachment 1.

Executive Summary

The intent of this report is to present to Council for its formal adoption the 2022 Parks Development, Reforestation, and Trails Capital Works Projects. Subject to the outcome of on-going strategic planning sessions with Council to confirm the desired focus of infrastructure works for the Town over the next five years, a separate report regarding the remainder of the 2022-2026 Community & Recreation Services Parks Five Year Capital Works Plan will be provided for Council consideration.

The detailed capital project plan includes park infrastructure upgrades, renovations and improvements planned for completion in 2022.

Lifecycle reserves are used to fund replacement and repair, as well as new projects.

Background

Approval of 2022 CRS Capital Works Projects is sought to maintain a consistently high level of service and to improve the Town's park-related infrastructure components in a timely manner.

A separate report in 2022 regarding the remainder of the 2022-2026 Community and Recreation Services Parks Five Year Capital Works Plan is forthcoming following the conclusion of on-going discussions with Council regarding project prioritization.

The recommended projects are intended to upgrade existing parks and to develop playgrounds that are most in need of improvements. The objective is to deliver high quality park amenities at a consistent level throughout the Town. The proposed projects reflect needs identified in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan completed in 2008 (and updated in 2021), as well as through consultations with various individual park users and formal user groups such as Tecumseh Minor Baseball, Tecumseh Minor Soccer, and St. Mary's Athletic Association.

Some projects have been carried over from 2021 for completion in 2022; delays were experienced in 2021 due to unforeseen circumstances associated with the COVID-19 pandemic which significantly affected Parks & Recreation operations.

Comments

All 2022 capital projects for parks are summarized in Attachment 1. The following are previously approved projects that will be completed in 2022.

Lakewood North – Historical Storyboard Installation \$10,000

- This project is requested to be carried over to 2022, as ongoing historical information gathering on Lakewood Golf Course is not complete. It is anticipated this project will be completed by the third quarter of 2022.

McAuliffe Park Washroom Renovation \$15,000

- The majority of the McAuliffe Park washroom renovation project was completed in 2019; the only exception was the adult change table. The request is to carry over previously approved funds to 2022 for this project which will allow for the purchase and installation of an adult change table in the second quarter of 2022.

Chippewa Park – New Cement Pad and Upgrades \$30,000

- The central court yard has deteriorated interlock bricks that have become uneven over time, and are to be replaced with a poured cement pad. The project will be completed by the second quarter of 2022 with firm commitments from heavily booked contractors.

Park Sign Replacements \$15,000

- Many of the signs identifying the names of the parks are 15 years old and in need of replacement. A total of 7 signs were slated to be replaced in 2021 but will be delayed to 2022 primarily because of supply chain issues.

Lacasse Baseball Grandstand – Replacement Design \$45,000

- \$60,000 was previously approved to engage architectural services to undertake a review of the grandstands, including public consultations, concept designs, and costing to replace the grandstands. Phase one of the project has been completed through public, user group, Council and administration consultations, and concept designs and costing have been prepared. The balance of \$45,000 will be carried over to complete phase one and, once the review is complete, the results will be reported back to Council for further direction.

Lakewood and McAuliffe Park – Community Electronic Display \$130,000

- The installation of two Community Electronic LED Message Displays was previously approved: one at Lakewood Park North, and another at McAuliffe Park. The funding for the signs will be covered from a 2019 Municipal Modernization Fund (MMF) grant.

Tree Inventory \$40,000

- A complete inventory of all of the trees found within public lands in the Town was previously approved. Field work has commenced as of January 2022. The section of the Town found within the bounds of the former St Clair Beach was targeted as a higher priority area with approximately 2,000 older trees to be inventoried first. The remaining sections of the Town will be completed in phases over the course of the year. The information gathered will include tree species, diameter and a general rating of each tree's condition. The resultant inventory will allow for improved management of the Town's urban forest, providing insight as to the state of the species and age class diversity, as well as some direction on where increased tree trimmings and/or removals are warranted.

The following are identified for improvements under the proposed 2022 Capital Works Plan:

Parks Development 2022

Lakewood and McAuliffe Park – Community Electronic Display \$45,000

- An additional \$45,000 will be required to cover the costs for the electronic sign, which increased due to inflation, hydro installation, wi-fi cable, and landscaping around the base of the signs. The additional costs will be covered by the 2019 MMF grant.

St Mary's Park – Baseball Dugouts \$10,000

- The wood dugouts and benches at diamond 2 are over 20 years old and in a state of disrepair and need to be replaced.

Bench and Garbage Can Installations \$12,000

- Requests for new garbage cans and benches are received throughout the year, including memorial benches, and the units will be installed in various parks.

Sports Fields Top Dressing and Over Seeding \$15,000

- With the elimination of pesticides for the control of weeds in turf areas, the Town now relies on cultural practices to maintain and enhance the sports fields in Town such as the application of sand, compost and topsoil to level the fields, as well as over seeding to improve the thickness of the turf. All of the sports fields used by soccer and baseball will be treated as required to keep them in excellent playing condition.

Install Manufactured Wood Chips under Playsets \$15,000

- At present, only 4 of our 22 park playgrounds have pea stone underneath the equipment as the fall protection material. Manufactured wood chips are now the preferred surfacing; these meet current standards, provide the required fall protection, and improve accessibility. Of the 4 playsets with pea stone, 2 will be completely replaced (Shawanoë in 2022 and Baillargeon in 2023 will be replaced as part of capital equipment replacements) leaving 2 (Century and Weston) that are slated for retention beyond a 5-year period. The funding allocation will allow for the pea stone to be converted to the manufactured wood chips at Weston in 2022.

Park Sign Replacements \$15,000

- The remaining 5 signs that have been identified for replacement will be replaced in 2022. This will update the majority of the signs throughout the park system, with the remaining to be monitored for replacement in future years.

St Mary's – Backflow Preventer and Booster Pump \$16,000

- The splash pad installed in 2018 had issues with water pressure, and accordingly, a backflow preventer was not installed. As part of regular inspections undertaken by the Water Department, this was identified as a deficiency requiring attention. As well, an irrigation system for the baseball diamond was installed in 2021. As a result, the overall water pressure to the park must now be addressed. The installation of a backflow preventer and a booster pump is required.

Lakewood Pickleball – Fencing and Landscaping \$20,000

- The pickleball complex construction will be complete in spring 2022, with some additional improvement required to Lacasse Park. Additional fencing is needed, along with landscaping at the entrance and finished earthworks and drainage around the perimeter of the complex. These items were not budgeted in the original project.

Rocheleau Park – Toddler Playset Installation \$25,000

- A new single playset was installed in 2021 to replace the 2 existing outdated pieces of equipment. Although the new playset was designed to accommodate age groups from 18 months to 12 years, feedback from the neighbouring parks users pointed out that a separate unit dedicated for the toddler age group of 18 months to 6 years is preferred. Therefore, a new small unit designed solely for the toddlers is required.

Annual Project Allocation \$25,000

- The requested funding will allow the parks department to address smaller issues that come up during the course of the year, such as an emergency replacement of a swing set, unforeseen small drainage work, etc. As well, annual inspections may reveal equipment failures. Any use of Annual Project Allocation will be reported to Council through the regular budget variance reporting.

Weston Park – Washroom Holding Tanks \$25,000

- The existing septic tanks at the Weston Park washrooms have regularly reached their capacity in the past, requiring that the washrooms be closed during the spring and summer seasons. New holding tanks are recommended in order to make the existing washrooms operable.

Weston Park – Tennis Court Refurbishing \$45,000

- The acrylic top surface of the Weston tennis courts is showing significant signs of wear, in addition to cracks developing in the asphalt. The cracks need to be repaired, and a new multi-coat acrylic surface will bring the courts to the same standard as all of the tennis and pickleball courts within the town.

Shawanoë – Playset Replacement \$70,000

- The playset at Shawanoë has reached the end of its useful life, showing signs of deterioration in the metal structure and badly faded paint and plastic components. The existing pea stone surfacing material will also be removed and replaced with the engineered woodchips.

Lakewood Park – Design of Splash Pad and Washrooms \$75,000

- A splash pad is planned for installation in Lakewood as part of the Lakewood Master Plan adopted in 2013. Improvements and expansions of washroom facilities will be required to service the new splash pad, along with park users. Proposals will be requested from qualified design firms for detailed designs, with installation planned for 2023.

Reforestation 2022

Tree Planting \$30,000

- New trees will be planted to replace all of the trees removed throughout the Town, as well as in response to individual requests from homeowners wishing to have a tree planted on the right-of-way in front of their house. Additional trees will be planted in various parks to expand the available forest cover. This will be an ongoing annual planting program, modified to meet the needs as they present themselves over the years.

Trails 2022

Trail at Pickleball Complex \$25,000

- Currently there is no pathway from the pavilion to the Lacasse outdoor washrooms. With the addition of the pickleball complex there is a need to have a surfaced pathway leading from the pickleball complex and pavilion to the washrooms. This will provide users of each facility a safe pathway to and from the outdoor washroom facilities.

Consultations

Financial Services

Financial Implications

Project costs have been outlined throughout the Comments section. Funding from sources other than lifecycle allocations is noted in the project write-up. The balance of funds required for Park Development, Reforestation and Trails is generally funded from dedicated lifecycle reserves as outlined in Attachment 1.

The Parks lifecycle annual budget allocation is intended for both new and replacement items. However, due to increasing costs associated with new items, supplemental funding from the Infrastructure Reserve (NIL) has been necessary. Recent past practice has been to fund new/enhanced items on a 50/50 basis between the dedicated Parks Lifecycle Reserve and the Infrastructure Reserve (NIL).

Following a capital works strategic planning session with Council in early 2022, the CRS Parks 2023-2026 five-year capital plan will be brought to Council for consideration, approval and adoption accompanied by updated Projected Lifecycle Reserve and Reserve Fund schedules for the five-year planning period.

Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2019-22 Strategic Priorities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Make the Town of Tecumseh an even better place to live, work and invest through a shared vision for our residents and newcomers.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure that Tecumseh’s current and future growth is built upon the principles of sustainability and strategic decision-making.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Integrate the principles of health and wellness into all of Tecumseh’s plans and priorities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steward the Town’s “continuous improvement” approach to municipal service delivery to residents and businesses.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Demonstrate the Town’s leadership role in the community by promoting good governance and community engagement, by bringing together organizations serving the Town and the region to pursue common goals.

Communications

Not applicable

Website

Social Media

News Release

Local Newspaper

This report has been reviewed by Senior Administration as indicated below and recommended for submission by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Prepared by:

Casey Colthurst, HBScF
Manager Parks & Horticulture

Reviewed by:

Paul Anthony, RRFA
Director Community & Recreation Services

Reviewed by:

Tom Kitsos, CPA, CMA, BComm
Director Financial Services & Chief Financial Officer

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment Number	Attachment Name
1	Town of Tecumseh 2022 Parks Capital Projects Summary