



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Community & Recreation Services

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Beth Gignac, Director Community & Recreation Services

Date to Council: Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Report Number: CRS-2025-13

Subject: Memorandum of Understanding – Ontario Conservation Accelerator

Recommendations

It is recommended:

That CRS-2025-13 Memorandum of Understanding – Ontario Conservation Accelerator **be received;**

And that By-Law 2025-085 **to authorize** the Mayor and Clerk to execute a Memorandum of Understanding, satisfactory in form to the Town's Solicitor, with the Ontario Conservation Accelerator be considered for first, second, third and final readings.

Background

At the Regular Council Meeting of May 13, 2025, Report CRS-2025-07 Ontario Conservation Accelerator Letter of Understanding approved the development of a Letter of Understanding (also known as a Memorandum of Understanding) with the Ontario Conservation Accelerator to prepare a conservation and recreational use plan for Fairplay Woods.

Comments

This report summarizes the key items that are featured in the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ontario Conservation Accelerator to enhance the recreational and educational experiences that could be provided at Fairplay Woods while ensuring that conservation and restoration efforts are realized.

The Memorandum of Understanding is focused on:

Phase 1: Planning

This phase will be funded by the Ontario Conservation Accelerator and includes:

Engagement – co-host stakeholder and community engagement sessions to inform the planning phase. The Town will work with the Ontario Conservation Accelerator to plan, schedule and host up to three (3) engagement sessions over the term of this phase.

Conservation Plan – the Town will work with the Ontario Conservation Accelerator to involve stakeholders such as the Essex Region Conservation Authority, Indigenous communities and Dillon Consulting (the consultants preparing the forthcoming Urban Forestry and Naturalization Plan) in a review of the existing conservation requirements for the existing woodlot and make recommendations for ongoing conservation efforts.

Restoration Plan – the Town will work with the Ontario Conservation Accelerator and other consultants such as the Essex Region Conservation Authority, Indigenous communities, Dillon Consulting and other local experts to convert the existing agricultural area to natural cover, including estimated costs and timelines.

Site and Use Plan – the Town will work with the Ontario Conservation Accelerator and their consultants to design an overall site plan including a trail system, site access, site amenities such as an interpretive centre and rest area, and provide estimated costs and timelines.

The Term of the Memorandum of Understanding for the work of Phase 1: Planning is up to six months, commencing on July 1, 2025 and ending on December 31, 2025.

The Ontario Conservation Accelerator will cover the costs of their contribution to Phase 1: Planning for a maximum financial threshold of \$20,000.00. The Town will not incur any costs to support the work of the Ontario Conservation Accelerator during this phase.

The results of Phase 1: Planning will be brought to Council on completion for consideration. On Council approval of the plans, the Ontario Conservation Accelerator would also provide expertise for implementation, the terms of which would be provided in an Addendum to the MOU as part of a further report to Council.

Consultations

Chief Administrative Officer
Legislative Services & Clerk
Ontario Conservation Accelerator

Financial Implications

As previously reported, the Ontario Conservation Accelerator has committed to providing funding to support the planning aspects of the project. That includes coverage of expenses that the Ontario Conservation Accelerator may incur in completing the work.

There is no financial implication to the Town for the planning process. Future financial considerations for implementation will be brought forward through a future Council report on the completion of Phase 1: Planning.

Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2023-2026 Strategic Priorities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustainable Growth: Achieve prosperity and a livable community through sustainable growth.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community Health and Inclusion: Integrate community health and inclusion into our places and spaces and everything we do.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Service Experience: Enhance the experience of Team Tecumseh and our citizens through responsive and respectful service.

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:

Beth Gignac, BA Hons
Director Community & Recreation Services

Reviewed by:

Robert Auger, LL.B.
Director Legislative Services & Clerk

Recommended by:

Shaun Fuerth, BCS
Director Technology & Client Services and Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment Number	Attachment Name
None	None