

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE**Strathcona County Regional Park Master Plan – Phase II What We Heard Report****Report Purpose**

To provide Priorities Committee an update on the Strathcona County Regional Park Master Plan.

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Goal 2 - Healthy and Safe Community

Goal 3 - Responsible Development

Goal 4 - Municipal Excellence

Goal 2 Priority - Indigenous relations that advance reconciliation

Goal 3 Priority - Environmental stewardship that addresses climate change and demonstrates responsible use of land and natural resources

Goal 4 Priority - Relationships with all levels of government and key stakeholders that are strategic, purposeful and productive

Report

In 2008, the River Valley Alliance endorsed Plan of Action identified land in Strathcona County for a new regional park. Council approved the acquisition of the 290-acre parcel in 2017. Strathcona County initiated the Indigenous Engagement Strategy for the Master Plan in 2019. Public engagement continued in 2020 and 2021 with virtual workshops and site visits with Indigenous Communities and Organizations.

In September 2021, Strathcona County hired O2 Planning and Design Inc to lead the Strathcona County Regional Park Master Plan project. The objective of the Master Plan is to establish the provision and proposed development of outdoor recreation and culture infrastructure programs.

The site analysis and policy review were completed in late 2021. An innovative public engagement plan was created and implemented in February 2022 that resulted in the What We Heard Report – Phase I. This included public engagement feedback in addition to the Indigenous feedback which has been used to create a vision for the Regional Park. This vision has helped guide and create two draft concepts.

These draft concepts were shared with the public and stakeholders in June 2022 and with the First Nations and Organizations in September 2022. Following public engagement, a second What We Heard Report – Phase II was completed.

Key themes that arose through the second engagement opportunities included:

- A focus on accessibility and varied trail experiences
- Provide a mix of naturalized flat landscapes as well as hills and lookouts
- Provide four season family activities and non-motorized water recreation
- Preservation of natural areas and habitats
- Suggestions for low impact recreation and programming, less focus on sports fields
- Suggestions about some Indigenous knowledge and history which could be incorporated into the park

Priorities Committee Meeting_Oct18_2022

The final Master Plan and Implementation Strategy will be brought to Council for approval in Q1 of 2023.

Council and Committee History

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| June 6, 2017 | Council approved the strategic land acquisition of the 280 hectares for \$1,700,000 to support short and long-term requirements for future municipal services. |
| December 6, 2018 | Council approved \$400,000 in the 2019-2022 Capital Budget to complete the North Strathcona County Regional Park Master Plan. Council also approved \$100,000 in the 2017 Capital Budget. |
| June 7, 2022 | Priorities Committee was provided an update on the What We Heard - Phase I of the Strathcona County Regional Park Master Plan. |

Other Impacts

Policy: n/a

Financial/Budget: The design and construction of the Park will be added within the 15-year budget process for future consideration.

Legislative/Legal: n/a

Interdepartmental: Planning and Development Services, Transportation Planning and Engineering, Transportation and Agriculture Services, Utilities, Family and Community Services, Strathcona County Emergency Services, Economic Development and Tourism, Communications

Master Plan/Framework: River Valley Alliance Plan of Action (2008), Recreation and Culture Strategy, Recreation and Culture Strategy Implementation Plan.

Communication Plan

A comprehensive communication and public engagement plan is part of the overall Masterplan.

Enclosure(s)

- 1 Strathcona County Regional Park, Phase II Engagement, What We Heard from the Community, ppt
- 2 Strathcona County Regional Park Master Plan, Phase II What We Heard Report