

Committee of the Whole (1) Report

DATE: Tuesday, March 01, 2022

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: NORTH MAPLE REGIONAL PARK DEVELOPMENT UPDATE
MARCH 2022

FROM:

Vince Musacchio, Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Development

ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

Purpose

To provide a progress update on the planned development of North Maple Regional Park (NMRP), including the Phase 2 Enabling Works Design-Build, Trail Improvements and Vaughan Cares recognition.

Report Highlights

- NMRP team is refining the program to continue delivery of next stages of park development as well as engaging the community in plans for the park's future.
- The Enabling Works Design-Build contract has been awarded and site preparation is underway.
- Trail Improvements awarded in the fall of 2021 are 40% complete and substantial completion is targeted for Q2 2022.
- Staff are advancing plans for recognition of Vaughan Cares at the park including placement of the commemorative stone and plaque by Q2 2022.
- Opportunities to expand future phases of the park into former landfill areas are being explored with MECP and City of Toronto.

Recommendation

1. That this report be received for information.

Background

In April 2018, Council endorsed the 900-acre vision to develop NMRP into an iconic park with national recognition as an outstanding sports and culture destination that will give back to the City of Vaughan. In September 2018 artificial turf fields, driveway, parking and pathways were completed and the park officially opened for use. In the spring of 2019, washrooms, changerooms, shade shelters and event preparations were completed, and the park hosted 18,000 visitors to celebrate Canada Day on July 1. In 2019, with the help of Parks Operations staff, a new toboggan hill was opened at NMRP and is currently being enjoyed by many park visitors.

In the summer of 2020 a Technical Advisor, Stantec Consulting Ltd. (Stantec), was hired through an RFP process and commenced design work and technical studies to support the development of procurement document to hire a Design-Build Contractor to implement Enabling Works. In the summer of 2021, a prequalification and RFP process resulted in the award of the Enabling Works Design-Build contract to Metric Contracting in December of 2021.

During the summer of 2021 a tender for trail improvements construction funded by the Federal ICIP COVID-19 Resiliency grant fund was also awarded and construction commenced in the fall of 2021. Improvements are expected to be completed by summer 2022. Upgrades include paving existing trails, replacing the Nevada Park Bridge and adding seating, planting and signage.

Advancing the vision for NMRP is a Term of Council priority project. Since the park's opening, NMRP has become a popular destination and the public is eagerly awaiting the construction of more facilities at the park.

Previous Reports/Authority

[NORTH MAPLE REGIONAL PARK PHASE 2 DEVELOPMENT](#)

[NORTH MAPLE REGIONAL PARK PHASE 2 DEVELOPMENT UPDATE OCTOBER 2020](#)

[NORTH MAPLE REGIONAL PARK PHASE 2 DEVELOPMENT UPDATE JANUARY 2021](#)

Analysis and Options

The Enabling Works stage of construction now underway will prepare 52 hectares (130 acres) of the park for future development of new recreational facilities and park amenities based on the Phase 2 NMRP Concept Plan (Attachment 1). To prepare this site for the future park development, the scope of current work includes:

- site grading and stormwater management.

- installation of underground services (water, storm, sanitary, electrical, gas and telecom).
- reconstruction and extension of the current park roadway, in addition to creating a second park access from Keele Street.
- environmental restoration, enhancement, and connection of the existing pond, wetland, and habitat areas.

As part of this work, environmental restoration is a priority. This will include removing current trees, grasses and shrubs which will be replanted in a way that improves the ecosystems onsite. All work is being completed in coordination with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and the Toronto Region Conservation Authority.

Construction is underway and will take place in stages. It is expected to be completed by fall 2023. Different areas of the park will be closed to the public with onsite signage and fencing during each stage. The existing parking lot, artificial turf fields and pavilion will remain open throughout the construction.

In addition to the Enabling Works Design-Build, the NMRP Team continues to advance the Council directed park vision through the following activities:

1. Engagement with sport, culture and community organizations to explore partnerships, programs, and events that can elevate NMRP as a world-class destination
 - Continued consultation with potential partner organizations
 - Development of a RFEOI process to identify short- and long-term partnership opportunities to facilitate park development.
2. Vaughan Cares Recognition
 - Advancing design options for the installation of the Vaughan Cares commemorative stone and plaque by Q2 2022
 - Interpretive panels telling the park history, including the contributions of Vaughan Cares
 - Naming of the park road “Vaughan Cares Way”
 - Recognition of the 20th anniversary of the closure of the Keele Valley Landfill Site in December 2022
3. Community Engagement and Park Activation
 - Cam Collyer, Senior Advisor with Evergreen and Principal of People and Place Consulting Strategy & Engagement has been engaged to support NMRP staff in the planning and delivery of community engagement, park programs and activations

4. Capital Planning and Projects Advisor
 - Engaged DTAH consulting to support the refinement of a 5-year capital delivery plan and provide strategic advice on the advancement of future park project planning, design, procurement and delivery
5. Understanding requirements, opportunities and constraints for transforming former landfill areas for park and recreational uses
 - Consultations with Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) and City of Toronto
 - Advancing opportunities for additional landfill cover and topsoil placement at the Vaughan Township Landfill Site (VTLS)
 - Procurement planning to initiate additional landfill technical studies at VTLS in 2022 to prepare for future park development
6. Continued Environmental Site Assessment within specific areas of NMRP
 - NMRP Part B ESAs and Record of Site Condition (RSC) technical studies completed with PG Environmental
 - Procurement planning to initiate final site works and RSC report
7. Leveraging Grant Opportunities for Park Initiatives
 - Recipient of ICIP COVID-19 Resiliency funding for Trail Improvements connecting NMRP to Nevada Park and nearby neighbourhoods
 - Plans include paving, planting, seating and signage to improve accessibility, connectivity and wayfinding
 - Construction awarded 40% complete with full completion anticipated in Q2 2022
8. Consultations with the Toronto Region Conservation Authority
 - Enabling Works design build contractor has partnered with TRCA construction services to leverage the TRCA's environmental restoration expertise through the design-build process
 - Procurement planning for additional trail improvements through woodlands adjacent to NMRP
 - Considerations for operations and maintenance agreements for TRCA lands
9. Consultations with York Region on the Teston Road IEA
 - Exploring options for Teston Road to extend through the 900-acre NMRP boundaries
 - Considering park user experience in evaluation of transportation design alternatives such as bridging, tunneling and context sensitive road cross sections

10. Inter-departmental staff collaboration with:

- Parks Operations and Facilities Management to establish levels of service for maintenance, including winter maintenance and use of the park toboggan hill area
- Legal Service to create a property mapping database for use in agreements
- Corporate Communications to prepare key messages and promotional material. Installation of free Wi-Fi and a digital park sign is complete.
- Considerations for a future Primary Off-leash Dog Area at NMRP

Further updates and communications on these activities will be provided as the NMRP Program continues to be refined and resources are assigned to the project.

Financial Impact

Funding for the NMRP program is available in approved Capital Project PK-6636-19 to continue advancing the NMRP project, including labour recovery for staff time. Funding for the Enabling Works design and construction and to initiate master planning and VTLS technical studies is included as part of the 2022 approved budget. Submissions will be made through the 2023 budget process for future stages of development.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

Completion of the NMRP project requires continued discussion and coordination with a variety of external agencies and stakeholders including York Region, TRCA, City of Toronto, MECP and MNRF.

Conclusion

Advancing the 900-acre vision for NMRP is a Term of Council priority project and the transformation of the park continues. With Phase 1 of the park now open, public interest in advancing future phases continues to grow. Progress continues on-schedule with the Enabling Works Design-Build assignment with construction completion anticipated in Q3 2023.

For more information, please contact Johanna Kyte, Manager, Parks Delivery (NMRP Program), ext. 3613 or Jamie Bronsema, Director of Parks Infrastructure Planning & Development, ext. 8858.

Attachment

1. NMRP Phase 2 Concept Plan.

Prepared by

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Approved by



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