

Committee of the Whole (1) Report

DATE: Tuesday, November 28, 2023

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: NORTH MAPLE REGIONAL PARK FAMILY RECREATION AREA
UPDATE NOVEMBER 2023

FROM:

Vince Musacchio, Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Development

ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

Purpose

To provide a progress update on the concept design for the Family Recreation Area project at North Maple Regional Park (NMRP).

Report Highlights

- Advancing design and construction of the Family Recreation Area project is an emerging priority for this Term of Council.
- In September 2023 Council approved a single sourced procurement to People and Place Consulting to support staff in accelerating the planning, design and delivery of this project.
- An initial design charette was conducted in September with members of the NMRP Program Committee and staff Collaboration Team from various departments to receive ideas and input into the design process.
- A concept plan for the Family Recreation Area is being developed to include playgrounds, water play, picnic areas and pavilion, gardens, boardwalks, pathways, skating trail, four-season washroom, and additional parking.
- The project plan anticipates finalizing concept design in Q1 2024 immediately followed by detail design and procurement Q2-Q4 2024, to allow construction to start in 2025 for completion and public opening in 2026.
- Staff from Corporate and Strategic Communications are working with the project team to develop and deliver communications on the Family Recreation Area project such as design updates, construction impacts, and closures.

Recommendation

1. That this report be received for information.

Background

The Family Recreation Area project is supported by Council as an emerging area of focus and priority for NMRP to be delivered for 2026. With Council approval in September 2023, staff are in the process of accelerating design of this project with the support of People and Place Consulting, and a concept design is being finalized.

The concept design builds on the community's vision for NMRP with key objectives focused on activities related to restoring nature, sharing culture, promoting active living, and building community. The three key pillars guiding the work of the NMRP team are: RESTORE, ENGAGE, PLAY.

The Family Recreation Area is envisioned to include a variety of programming for all ages and all seasons such as playgrounds, water play, youth zone, shade shelters, skating trail, and four-season washroom facilities. Through discussion at the NMRP Program Committee, a major picnic area and pavilion, gardens and additional parking will be included in the scope of work for this project.

Previous Reports/Authority

[Item 2, Report No. 35, North Maple Regional Park Program Update September 2023.](#)

Analysis and Options

A design charette was delivered with members of the Program Committee and Collaboration Team to receive ideas and input on the Family Recreation Area concept

In September 2023 the NMRP team, together with People and Place Consulting, worked quickly to initiate a series of meetings including a design charette with key staff that have direct responsibility or association with the park. The goal of these meetings was to collaborate with staff and gather input towards the planning, operations, programs and activities that support the design for the Family Recreation Area including botanical garden elements. The meetings were well attended with members of the Program Committee and Collaboration Team including key staff from:

- Parks, Forestry and Horticulture Operations
- Facility Management
- Community Services
- Recreation Services

- By-law and Compliance, Licensing and Permit Services, Property Standards Enforcement
- Economic Development

A concept design for the Family Recreation Area has been prepared with collaboration from the members of the NMRP Program Committee and staff Collaboration Team

People and Place Consulting established a team of multi-disciplinary professionals to support design and construction of the Family Recreation Area project. The team includes experts in playground design and children's gardens, architecture, engineering, and public outreach which are required for design approvals and permitting of the works. The consultant team also has experience in project sponsorship and donations for public capital projects which will help support staff in exploring opportunities for NMRP and this project in particular.

The concept design for the Family Recreation Area is being prepared in collaboration with members of the Program Committee and key staff on the Collaboration Team. The plan includes a variety of programming for all ages and all seasons, including playgrounds, picnic areas, gardens, water play, skating, boardwalks, pathways/trails, a pond lookout, a pavilion with washroom facilities, and other site amenities such as benches and shade structures. The location of the Family Recreation Area project site within NMRP is shown in Attachment 1.

Development of the Family Recreation Area will advance into detailed design and procurement in 2024 to set the stage for construction in 2025 and 2026

The development of the Family Recreation Area project will move quickly into refining the concept plan and detailed design to ensure timely delivery of the project for 2026.

Key milestones for this project are envisioned as follows:

- Q1 2024 Finalize concept design
- Q2-Q3 2024 Advance detail design
- Q4 2024 Finalize detail design and issue the tender for construction
- Q2 2025 Start construction
- Q2 2026 Complete construction and open for public use

Staff will continue to collaborate with members of the NMRP Program Committee and Collaboration Team to ensure an integrated detail design process is achieved. Given the nature of the project and park program components, staff are working with Procurement to assemble a shortlisted roster of qualified respondents that can be considered as part of the tendering for construction stage.

Communication and sponsorship strategies will be developed with Corporate and Strategic Communications throughout delivery of this project

The NMRP team is working with our partners in Corporate and Strategic Communications to ensure that the community is informed throughout the development of the Family Recreation Area project. The planned communications strategy will include frequent communications such as park vision and project design updates, construction impacts and closures, and timely information on construction progress, along with other communications on NMRP park development activities, programs and events.

Staff are also working closely with Economic Development to review potential sponsorship and donor opportunities for NMRP. A framework will be explored with the consultant through the Family Recreation Area design process and may include opportunities for businesses, philanthropy, and non-profit charities to participate and/or support the City's vision for the park. Once the concept design is finalized, the project team will accelerate exploration of potential partnerships, sponsorships and donors for this project.

Financial Impact

Funding for this project is available through the approved Capital Project PK-6636-19 which supports implementation of capital projects, consulting services, administration, and project management. Staff continue to seek potential partnerships and funding opportunities including Federal and Provincial grants, advertising, and program sponsorships to help advance the 900-acre vision.

Operational Impact

Completion of the Family Recreation Area project requires continued discussion and coordination with various internal departments. A staff Collaboration Team has been established to help guide this project through the design process and consideration of operational requirements upon public opening of this project to ensure that adequate resources and equipment are in place for 2026.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

Completion of the NMRP project requires continued discussion and coordination with a variety of external agencies and stakeholders, including communication plans and potential funding announcements as applicable.

Design and construction plans related to the pond and wetland areas of NMRP require approval and permits from the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

Conclusion

Advancing the 900-acre vision for NMRP continues to be a Term of Council priority and transformation of the park continues. The NMRP team in collaboration with People and Place Consulting are quickly advancing design development for the Family Recreation Area project for delivery by 2026. Following completion of the concept design phase, the project will quickly move into detail design in 2024, followed by construction in 2025 for a planned park opening in 2026.

For more information, please contact: Jamie Bronsema, Director, Parks Infrastructure Planning and Development, extension 8858.

Attachment

1. North Maple Regional Park Family Recreation Area Project Site.

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Approved by



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Reviewed by



Nick Spensieri, City Manager