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Date January 16, 2025 **Report No.** 2025-60
To Chair and Members
Brantford Accessibility Advisory Committee
From Jennifer Elliott, LET, C.E.T., Dipl.M.M
Director, Engineering Services

1.0 Type of Report

Consent Item
Item For Consideration

2.0 Topic Southwest Community Park Development - Update [Financial Impact - None]

3.0 Recommendation

THAT Staff Report 2025-60 – Southwest Community Park Development – Update BE RECEIVED.

4.0 Background

As early as 2006, the City of Brantford recognized the need to address the future growth requirements in the Southwest area of the City. The North of Shellard Neighbourhood and Recreation Plan identified the subject site at 346 Shellard Lane as a potential recreational hub for the City, with direction evolving over the following years through the Southwest Task Force.

Through presentations, discussions, and collaboration various scenarios of site orientation were explored to harness the best potential of site positioning, program functioning and the optimized interaction with the other outdoor activities. The project demonstrates that the City of Brantford is committed to responsible leadership by providing a variety of accessible recreational opportunities for the citizens of Brantford.

The new community park will not be gated, require no fees or membership, and will ensure that the parklands are accessible to all residents free of charge, year-round. The design of the park was shaped by valuable public input, ensuring that the amenities can be enjoyed in all seasons

5.0 Analysis

A project team was established, including City of Brantford representatives and an experienced consultant team whose services were retained through a competitive RFP process. The consultant team was tasked with incorporating the programming requirements set out by the Southwest Task Force

The City has retained professional consulting services to design, and develop the redevelopment of Southwest Community Park. The successful consultant was tasked to design a new park space complete competition level artificial turf soccer field, natural turf cricket pitch, an in-ground skatepark, a multi-use court with refrigeration capacity for winter ice skating, five (5) pickleball courts, expansive play space with the largest playground and splashpad in the City's portfolio, three (3) accessory buildings complete with universal washroom access and changerooms space, extensive trails and a boardwalk connection to McGuinness Drive.

The City of Brantford Facility Accessibility Design Standards (FADS) were referenced during the design of the buildings, the design has gone through the site plan application process and accessibility design requirements are included in the overall design budget for the building.

The design of Southwest Community Park includes several accessibility features aimed at making the park accessible and inclusive for all (Appendix "A").

Accessible Features included in this design are:

- Access to the artificial turf soccer field is barrier free, with elevated bleachers designed to incorporate accessible seating;

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- Access to the natural turf cricket pitch is barrier free, with dedicated seating spaces provided on concrete paving. The Official's shade structure and adjacent batting cages have also been located at ground level on a concrete surface to provide access for all Park visitors;
 - The pickleballs courts include two courts with expanded boundaries which facilitate accessible competition level play. Spectator seating has been provided in abundance;
 - The multi-use court includes a flush curb surrounding, providing barrier free access for all;
 - The playground will feature a rubberized surface to improve access for visitors, as well as providing a wide range of play equipment that encourages exploration at different levels and abilities;
 - The splash pad will include accessible features and concrete surfacing for wheelchair access;
 - Shade sails with accessible picnic benches are provided in the activity hub area for the benefit of all visitors;
 - The multi-use trail will have an improved smooth surface, grading, and cross slope where possible, ensuring that all visitors can access the site and its features. While the boardwalk is elevated in relation to the ground conditions, access to this tranquil feature is provided for all by flush connections to asphalt multi-use trails. New benches will be installed along the trail with accessible seating space beside them, at intervals suitable to provide rest stop opportunities;
 - Shade shelters will be built on a concrete base flush with surrounding areas;
 - The Maintenance Building includes a universal washroom equipped with an adult change table, adhering to FADS and AODA requirements. (Appendix "B");
 - The Cricket Pitch Fieldhouse includes four (4) universal washrooms equipped with an adult change table, and two (2) team changerooms, adhering to FADS and AODA requirements. (Appendix "C");
 - The Activity Hub Fieldhouse includes a universal washroom equipped with an adult change table, two (2) changerooms, and separate male /

female washrooms, adhering to FADS and AODA requirements.
(Appendix “D”); and

- A new parking lot will be constructed with accessible parking spots (11) and a curb ramp with tactile warning surfaces for easy access to the park.

The construction of the new Southwest Community Park began in September 2024, with an anticipated completion date of July 31, 2026.

6.0 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report. All costs associated with the accessibility improvements for the Southwest Community Park design are included in the approved capital budget.

7.0 Climate and Environmental Implications

This report does not have any direct climate and environmental implications.

8.0 Conclusion

Construction of the infrastructure components of the Southwest Community Park have begun in September 2024, with above ground amenity work slated to begin in Spring 2025. The City is committed to constructing a fully accessible and inclusive park for the general public and strives to ensure that the concepts and actions in delivering goods and services to persons with disabilities remain progressive. AODA and FADS compliance will be achieved in all park designs.



Jennifer Elliott, LET, C.E.T., Dipl.M.M.
Director, Engineering Services

Prepared By:

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Attachments (if applicable)

Appendix "A" Master Plan of Southwest Community Park

Appendix "B" Floor Plan and Elevations of the Maintenance Building

Appendix "C" Floor Plan and Elevations of the Cricket Pitch Fieldhouse

Appendix "D" Floor Plan and Elevations of the Activity Hub Fieldhouse

Copy to:

In adopting this report, is a by-law or agreement required? If so, it should be referenced in the recommendation section.

By-law required yes no

Agreement(s) or other documents to be signed by Mayor and/or City Clerk yes no

Is the necessary by-law or agreement being sent concurrently to Council? yes no