

 Municipality of Magnetawan	REPORT TO COUNCIL
To:	Mayor and Council
From:	Deputy Clerk Laura Brandt
Date of Meeting:	December 11, 2024
Report Title:	Revitalization of Croft Recreational Park

Recommendation: That Council receives and approves this report for information only.

Background and Comments: Several residents have approached Staff regarding upgrading and revitalizing Croft Recreational Park. As well several residents have posted on social media regarding the need for upgrades to the Park.

Evaluation: Currently the Croft Recreational Park is outdated and in disrepair. The ball field needs to be repaired as it does flood during the influx of rain and during the last two seasons, games have had to be postponed and rescheduled due to the state of the field as it would have been unsafe to play. The playground located at the park is small and the equipment is outdated. This project would serve multiple community interests as it would increase community engagement, attract more families, and sports enthusiasts, fostering community engagement and promoting physical activity. It would promote accessibility and inclusivity by adding accessible playground equipment, the park would become more inclusive for children of all abilities, ensuring that everyone in the community can enjoy recreational spaces. It would diversify our recreation as adding a skate, bike, pump (scooter, skating & biking) park would appeal to different age groups, especially teens and young adults, providing them with a safe and designated place for these activities. The refurbished baseball diamond could host community softball and baseball leagues for both youth and adults, in addition to informal pick-up games. With improved accessibility features, seniors and individuals with mobility challenges and disabilities can now fully engage in park activities, increasing inclusivity. Skateboarding clinics and workshops for beginners could be planned. The park could host annual community events such as summer festivals, sports tournaments, and outdoor concerts. Local schools may use the park for physical education classes, field trips, and extracurricular activities. Youth-focused programs, including after-school sports and summer camps, could utilize the park. It would also boost local appeal as a multi-use recreational park with diverse facilities and would attract more visitors, making it a vibrant hub for the community and enhancing the quality of life in the area. This combination of improvements would ensure the park meets the evolving needs of all residents, fostering a sense of community, health, and inclusivity.

Staff have been actively sourcing grants over the past five years and have not yet been successful for the Croft Revitalization Project. In 2024, the Province announced new funding under the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund and the Ontario Government is investing up to \$200 million over three years. Staff have applied under the repair and rehabilitation stream which supports projects that extend facility lifespan, maximize use, and improve the health, safety, accessibility and environment standards of existing facilities with funding between \$150,000 to \$1,000,000. Staff's submission included the revamp of the baseball field including lighting and scoreboard, installation of an accessible playground as well as the installation of a skate, bike, and pump park.

Financial Implications:

Funding Stream	Amount
NOHFC Community Enhancement Program (Approved Stage One)	\$200,000
Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund	\$700,000
Municipality of Magnetawan	\$100,000
TOTAL	\$1,000,000

Staff have applied to the NOHFC Community Enhancement Program and have passed Stage #1 of the application process and are currently in Stage #2. Staff have also applied to the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund and are currently waiting on the outcome of their submission.

Currently Staff have applied to the Bluejays Capital Grant for the revitalization of the Ball Diamond as well as Staff have also applied to the 2024 Enabling Accessibility Small Project Fund for the revitalization to include Accessible Playground Equipment as the NOHFC funding and Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund allow for Stack Funding. Staff are still awaiting the outcome of these grant submissions.

Staff will be actively sourcing any grant funding that would be applicable to this project. If we are successful in both of our grant submission then Council could proceed with the approval of the project and monies would have to be included in the 2025 Budget.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Brandt
Deputy Clerk

Current Baseball Field

Current Playground



New Playground Concept with Accessible Merry-Go-Round and Turf



Wheelchair Accessible Swing



Skate, Bike and Pump Track Park Concept #1



Skate, Bike and Pump Track Park Concept #2

