

STAFF REPORT: RECREATION DEPARTMENT



REPORT TO: Infrastructure & Recreation
MEETING DATE: March 19, 2013
REPORT NO.: DOR .13.10
SUBJECT: Dog Park Revised Location Proposal
PREPARED BY: Shawn Everitt
Director of Recreation

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report DOR 13.10. "Dog Park Revised location Proposal" for information purposes;

AND THAT Council does hereby authorize the development of a Dog Park at Moreau Park as outlined in this report, it being agreed and understood that the Dog Park would be funded and maintained by the Dog Park Group and will be for use as a public amenity;

AND THAT Council Authorize the Chief Administrative Officer and the Director of Recreation to sign an agreement satisfactory to the Town Solicitor with the "Dog Park Group" for the development and maintenance of the Dog Park.

B. Background

Report DOR 13.04 was presented at the February 12, 2013 Infrastructure and Recreation Committee meeting as Council previously directed staff to develop an agreement with the Women of 12 to establish a Labyrinth at Bayview Park in the former campground area. Along with the recommendation, Council also directed staff to continue to work with the Dog Park Group to consider opportunities to construct a dog park on the property beside the existing tennis courts at Bayview Park.

Staff has since met with John Corrigan who represents the dog owners and after review of the Bayview Park location and further reflection an area of Moreau Park that is identified in attachment "1" is considered a location that could be appropriate for the development of a Dog Park.

HISTORY

A request for a "Dog Park" or "off leash area" was first brought forward and identified in 2008. While a formal park was not approved, for the past three years, dog owners have utilized the "Blues Diamond" at Moreau Park as an informal "off leash area". During this time, it has been evident that an area that allows dog owners to take their dog off their leash is well used. Typically, a group of 30 to 50 dogs utilize this informal off leash area.

During the first two years of this trial, the Blues Diamond was not utilized for scheduled baseball use, therefore making the location somewhat suitable for an "off leash area". In 2012, the local baseball program offered Midget baseball that required the use of a

raised mound for pitching purposes. The Blues Diamond is the only diamond that has the raised mound.

Staff has reviewed the Towns land inventory and had identified the former campground site at Bayview Park as a potential location, and other locations that were considered during this review included Tomahawk Recreation Complex, Beaver Valley Community Centre, Clendenans Dam area, municipally owned property on Peel Street, as well as some preliminary discussions with private land owners. During this review staff did not consider any locations outside the Thornbury Clarksburg area due to interest coming from the Thornbury Clarksburg area.

The area of Bayview Park that staff had identified earlier was 50 meters x 50 meters approximately 2,500 square metres. Attachment "1" to this Report identifies the 50 meter x 40 meter area approximately 2,000 square meters that staff suggests is the most appropriate location on the Moreau Park property.

It is important to note that staff does suggest that since the area has been used for an informal dog park in the past and the general recreational use of the park since the early 60's the addition of a formal dog park is not outside the current range of uses.

Staff has not identified this project in the 2013 budget, and since 2008, staff has identified that any potential "off leash area" development would require funding through donations and user group fundraising, and as well facility stewardship would provide ongoing maintenance.

Regarding such facility stewardship, staff is recommending that if the development of a plan is approved, part of that plan would also include a land use agreement with a formalized group that would help oversee the off leash area and that would work closely with the Town and its Recreation Department.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

- Addressing the Town's municipal infrastructure needs.
- Supporting and development of social and recreational programs to meet the broad range of needs in the community

D. Environmental Impacts

Enhancing the Towns active lifestyle opportunities as well as providing active transportation opportunities with locating recreational facilities within walkable and rideable locations.

A land use agreement with a formalized group would help oversee the off leash area and would work closely with the Town and its Recreation Department regarding site maintenance and clean-up.

E. Financial Impact

It is suggested that all capital costs of development and implementation of an off leash area will be funded by donations and user group fundraising. Staff suggests that the use of the land be identified as the Town contribution to the capital project.

Capital costs

Total anticipated capital project costs - \$16,000 - \$20,000
Fencing costs - \$12,000 for 1.5 metre (5 feet) high fencing
Appropriate access gate systems - \$4,000 including service entrance opening
Signage - \$2,000
Benches – suggest inclusion into Towns existing memorial bench program

Operational Costs

The development of an Off Leash Area Master Plan would identify the addition of the facility as a Town amenity while not impacting the Parks Division level of taxation-supported funding through the creation of strong community partnerships.

This property has been maintained as green space in the past, and it is not anticipated that any change in use as an “off leash area” would create any additional operational costs. This is dependent on a strong commitment of the stewardship program that would provide ongoing general volunteer operational tasks.

F. In Consultation With

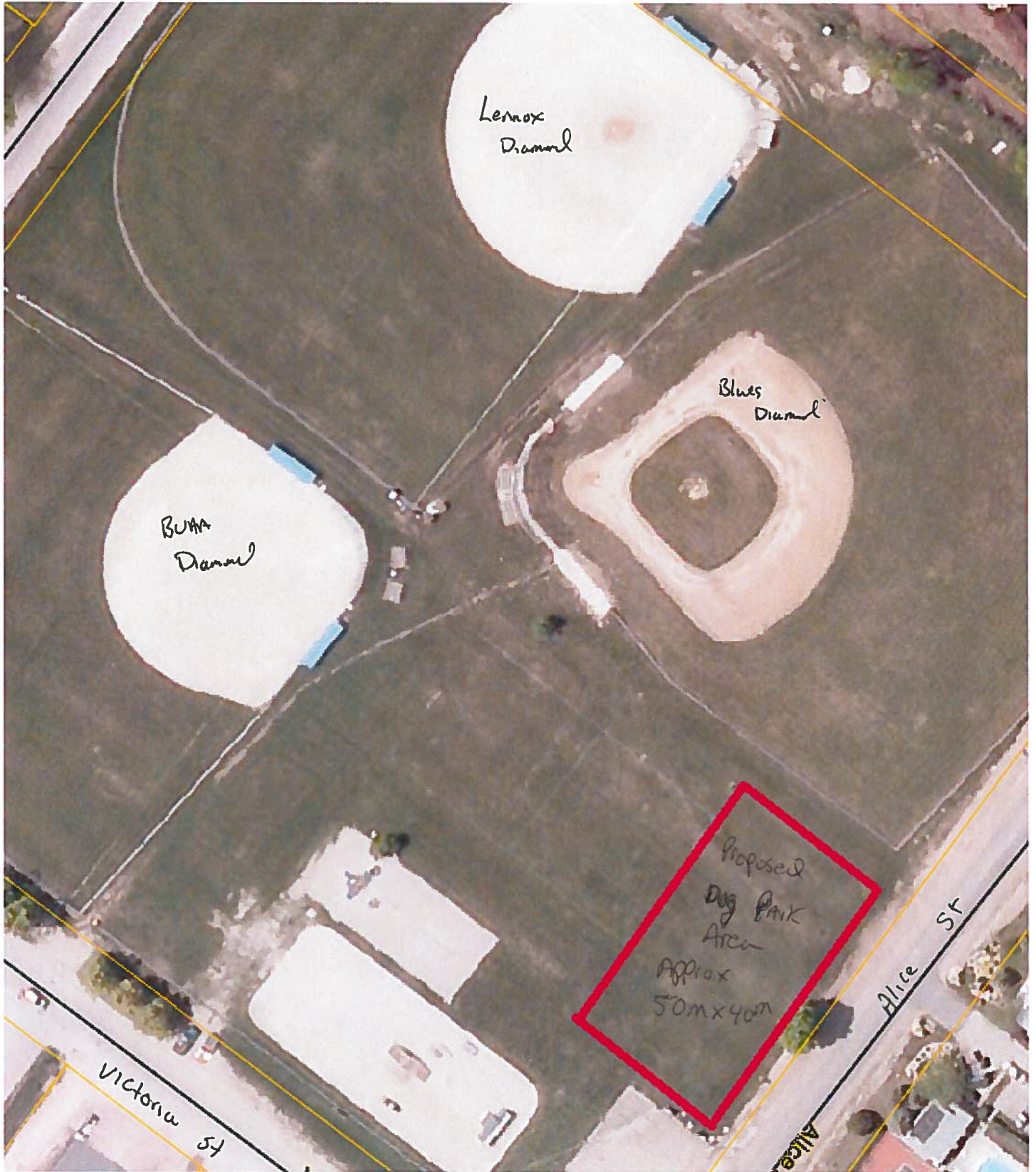
Senior Management Team
Terry Green, Manager of Parks & Trails
John Corrigan, Resident of The Blue Mountains and key user group representative
Kristen Shrider, Town of Saugeen Shores, Facilities Manager
Wendy Martin, Town of Collingwood, Manager of Parks
Beaver Valley Fall Fair
Frank Cowan Insurance

G. Attached

1. Moreau Park Aerial View

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Everitt, Director of Recreation
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