

## REQUEST FOR DECISION

**DATE:** April 22, 2025

**TOPIC:** Parks Master Plan

**PROPOSAL:** Parks Master Plan - Adoption

**PROPOSED BY:** Joel Comer, Director of Community Services

**DIVISION:** Community Services

### SECTION 1: SUMMARY

In late 2023, the Town of Creston contracted Barefoot Planning and Design to develop a Parks Master Plan, with strategic priorities to guide the future direction, philosophy, policies, and actions for the provision of municipal parks. Consultants and Staff held several public engagement events, providing opportunities for input during the Plan's development. March 25 – April 14, 2025, was the final public opportunity to give feedback on the draft plan.

This report reviews public feedback and presents the Parks Master Plan for Council consideration of adoption.

**Staff Recommendation:**

*THAT Council RECEIVES the April 22, 2025, Request for Decision titled “Parks Master Plan – Adoption”;*

*THAT Council ADOPTS the “Town of Creston Parks Master Plan”, while reserving the right to consider each recommended action with an associated Staff Report;*

*AND FURTHER THAT Council may prioritize the recommendations in a manner that aligns with the 2022-2026 Town of Creston Strategic Plan and the five-year financial plan.*

### SECTION 2: BACKGROUND

The Town of Creston Parks Master Plan (TCPMP) is a comprehensive strategy designed to shape the future of Creston's parks and open spaces. It establishes priorities, policies, and actions to support community needs and sustainability goals. The TCPMP includes a needs analysis, recommendations for future amenities and land acquisition, maintenance and asset management recommendations, accessibility recommendations, reconciliation opportunities, consideration of climate change, and conceptual designs for three municipal parks.

Further background information can be found in the March 25, 2025, Council Direction Request titled “Town of Creston Parks Master Plan Draft”.

### SECTION 3: ISSUE ANALYSIS / DISCUSSION

## **Public Feedback**

Plan development was informed by several public engagement events and processes over the course of the past year. The Parks Master Plan Draft final survey was online from March 25 to April 14, 2025, and was advertised through the Town's Newsflash, radio, and social media (boosted). In total, there were 163 project page visits during the duration of the survey and 23 survey responses. The survey asked three open ended questions.

### **Response Summary:**

1. Is there anything about the Plan that you would change?
  - a. Interest in having a firmer timeline for action items.
  - b. Desire for improved maintenance of current parks.
2. Is there anything about the Plan that is missing?
  - a. Stronger policy/actions regarding safe play space in the downtown core and accessible trails.
  - b. Stronger policy regarding lighting on trails and in parks.
  - c. Desire for connection between parks via trail systems.
3. Do you have any final thoughts for the Project Team (or Council)?
  - a. Concerns regarding current maintenance practices.
  - b. Concerns regarding vandalism, alcohol, homelessness.
  - c. Concerns regarding litter.
  - d. Concerns regarding perceived lack of engagement opportunities.
  - e. Concerns regarding fiscal responsibility and hiring consultants.
  - f. Appreciation for attention paid to Goat River access.

See Appendix A – Survey Results to view individual responses.

## **Revisions**

No revisions were made to the Parks Master Plan following survey completion. However, to address some concerns raised in the survey responses, coordinated and clear communication regarding the implementation of actions will be needed. Concerns regarding maintenance are addressed in the Plan. Staff will continue to promote the 2023 Trails Master Plan, to clearly convey the relationship between parks and trails and future trail plans.

## **Environmental Considerations**

The Parks Master Plan strongly emphasizes that park development and maintenance must be environmentally sustainable and create opportunities for environmental stewardship. Parks can have ecological value including stormwater management, educational opportunities, and reduced urban heat island effects.

## **Social Considerations**

Parks promote physical and mental well-being and foster social interaction.

## **Economic Considerations**

Well-maintained, diverse, and abundant local parks may lead to increased visitor and resident attraction. Parks also provide services such as storm water management at less cost than installation of culverts, pipes, and other infrastructure.

## SECTION 4: ORGANIZATION IMPLICATIONS

### Legislative Considerations (Policies and/or Bylaws)

Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1854, 2017.

### Strategic Focus

- Livability.
- Service Excellence.
- Economic Health.

### Reconciliation Considerations

The Plan speaks to reconciliation opportunities, including working with yaqan nukiy to incorporate Indigenous stories, welcomes, and cultural significance into place names, public art, and interpretive elements.

### Communication Considerations

- Plan to be available on Creston.ca.
- Promotion of final Plan through social media, Town Views, and other avenues.

## SECTION 5: FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

<b>Included in Financial Plan:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>Financial Plan Amendment Required:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Next Budget Cycle
--	---

Actions recommended in the Plan that could involve budget changes will be presented to Council for consideration prior to implementation.

## SECTION 6: OPTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES

### Option 1:

Council adopts the Parks Master Plan.

- Plan will support informed decision making.
- Plan will support future funding applications.

### Option 2:

Council refers to the Plan back to staff.

- Council may wish to make amendments to the plan.

- Contract with Barefoot Planning may need to be renewed.

**Option 3:**

Council does not adopt the Parks Master Plan.

- The Town of Creston will continue to manage parks without a guiding document.

## SECTION 7: RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council passes the following resolution(s):

*THAT Council RECEIVES the April 22, 2025, Request for Decision titled "Parks Master Plan – Adoption";*

*THAT Council ADOPTS the "Town of Creston Parks Master Plan", while reserving the right to consider each recommended action with an associated Staff Report;*

*AND FURTHER THAT Council may prioritize the recommendations in a manner that aligns with the 2022-2026 Town of Creston Strategic Plan and the five-year financial plan.*

## SECTION 8: SUBMITTED AND REVIEW

This report is respectfully submitted by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joel Comer, Director of Community  
Services

I concur with the staff recommendation.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Moore, Chief Administrative Officer

PowerPoint: ☐ Yes ☒ No

### Attachments

*Appendix A – Survey Results*

*Appendix B - Town of Creston Parks Master Plan*

### References

*No references for this report.*