



The Regional Municipality of Halton

Report To:	Chair and Members of the Planning and Public Works Committee
From:	Jane MacCaskill, Chief Administrative Officer
Date:	June 7, 2017
Report No. - Re:	LPS46-17 - Update on the Burloak and Burlington Beach Regional Waterfront Parks

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report No. LPS46-17 – Update on the Burloak and Burlington Beach Regional Waterfront Parks be received for information.
2. THAT the Regional Clerk forward a copy of Report No. LPS46-17 to the City of Burlington, the Town of Halton Hills, the Town of Milton, and the Town of Oakville for their information.

REPORT

Executive Summary

- The purpose of this report is to provide Regional Council with an update on the Master Plan Implementation process at Burloak and Burlington Beach Regional Waterfront Parks including what has been completed, what is currently underway and next steps.

Background

Halton Region has three Regional Waterfront Parks: Bronte Harbour, Burloak and Burlington Beach. Report No. LPS40-17 – Update on Bronte Harbour Regional Waterfront Park provided an update on Bronte Harbour and this report will provide an update on the two other Regional Waterfront Parks being Burloak and Burlington Beach.

The Regional Waterfront Parks are identified in the Halton Region Strategic Action Plan 2015-2018 – Shaping Halton’s Future. Through the strategic priority titled “Protecting the natural environment”, the focus of this priority is on protecting and enhancing Halton’s natural environment and reducing our ecological footprint. The finalization and implementation of the Master Plans for the Burlington Beach and Burloak Waterfront Park parks are identified as key actions within this priority.

With the approval of new Master Plans for Burloak (2014) and Burlington Beach (2015), staff have been working to implement these plans by commissioning the preparation of detailed design and construction tender drawings and tenders for construction.

Discussion

The Regional Waterfront Parks Program is guided by the policies of the Region of Halton Official Plan (ROP).

The ROP (Policy 133) outlines the objectives of the Regional Waterfront Parks program as follows:

- To maximize public accessibility to the Halton waterfront by increasing the amount of well distributed public open space.
- To provide a variety of recreational, cultural and tourism opportunities along the Halton waterfront.

The following status update illustrates the achievements made over the last year at both Burloak and Burlington Beach.

Burloak

Report No. LPS75-16 – “Implementing the Master Plans at Bronte Harbour, Burloak and Burlington Beach Regional Waterfront Parks”, provided an update on the implementation of the approved Master Plan. Throughout the late fall of 2016 and the winter of 2017 invasive species (Siberian Elms and Norway Maples) have been removed from the park and measures are in place to limit the sprouting of new shoots.

The main gazebo and plaza area adjacent to the pier has been substantially completed and the main spine pathway system is currently being installed. Warmer than normal weather this past winter and above average rainfall this spring has delayed the Phase 1 implementation process slightly. The completion of these works is expected by June 2017. This will signal the completion of all works contemplated through Phase 1.

Staff have also been actively working with staff from the Town of Oakville, City of Burlington and Conservation Halton on the completion of detailed design and construction tender drawings for Phase 2. The implementation of this phase will commence early this summer and will be completed (weather permitting) by late 2017 or early 2018. This phase includes the following park amenities:

- West Lookout
- West Picnic Area
- Non-Motorized Boat Launch
- Demonstration Garden
- Eastern Picnic Area

- Windows to the Lake Parking Area (8 spaces)
- Lookout Plaza & Pavilion
- Eastern Gateway at Burloak Drive and both the Upper and Lower Pathway

None of the planned amenities are negatively impacted by the current high lake levels as they are all located on the tableland portion of the park and/or behind the shoreline protection works.

Staff have consulted with both the Regional Waterfront Parks Advisory Committee and the Accessibility Advisory Committees at the Town of Oakville, City of Burlington and Halton Region throughout the development of the detailed design drawings for Phases 1 and 2. All of the Committees have provided valuable technical guidance and advice and are looking forward to full implementation. Works will commence on the western portions of the park first so that a significant portion of the park and two parking areas can be reopened by the late summer 2017. The City of Burlington will also install a portable trailer washroom facility in this section of the park for use by park visitors. These upgraded facilities will remain in the park until the permanent four seasons accessible washroom building is completed (Phase 3). Significant efforts have also been made throughout the design process to make the park accessible to all people of all ages and abilities.

The only remaining park amenities to be completed once Phase 2 is implemented are as follows:

- Accessible Washroom
- Water Play / Splashpad
- Western Parking Lot
- Western Park Entrance / Meeting Area
- Additional Tree / Canopy Replanting

These park elements are in an area of the park that could be impacted by the works currently being considered at the Elizabeth Gardens Waste Water Pump Station. Until such time as there is clarity on the nature of the changes being considered at Elizabeth Gardens, these amenities cannot be implemented as they are all in close proximity to the pump station and lands that may be needed for any expansion. The Accessible washroom facility will also be built at the same time as the pump station either attached or directly adjacent to this facility. This will minimize the removal of lands used as waterfront public open space and will maximize cost efficiencies for the Region on these two complementary projects. Staff will report back on the Phase 3 implementation process once the work related to the upgrades contemplated at Elizabeth Gardens have advanced to the detailed design stage. It is estimated at this point in time to occur in 2020.

Burlington Beach

Since the last update as provided through Report No. LPS75-16 – “Implementing the Master Plans at Bronte Harbour, Burloak and Burlington Beach Regional Waterfront Parks”, implementation of the Regional Council approved Master Plan has commenced. Throughout the summer and fall of 2016 and the winter of 2017 significant efforts were made to complete Phase 1a of the implementation process. With the approval of \$652,054 in funding under the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program for the Spencer Smith section of the park (Report No. LPS30-16 - Burlington Beach Regional Waterfront Park Project Contribution Agreement), staff have been working closely with staff from the City of Burlington to advance the completion of the Phase 1a improvements to the park.

To date the following park amenities have been substantially completed:

- Upgraded gazebo installed
- Pathway improvements
- Landscaping and drainage improvements
- Electrical and irrigation upgrades
- Specimen trees and perennial plantings around gazebo

Minor deficiencies and the completion of the required inspections are still outstanding but this section of the park has been reopened for public use.

Phase 1b is also underway. The detailed design and construction tender drawings and a competitive bid process have been completed and a construction contractor to complete the Phase 1b works has been secured. These works include:

- Asphalt resurfacing on promenade
- Shade structures and native plantings at cobble beach
- Concrete surfacing at seating nodes
- Concrete surfacing of pathway at west end of park
- Refurbishment of parapet wall
- Railings along west end of parapet wall
- Bollards and benches

The promenade surface replacement with new asphalt will upgrade the surface to an accessible pathway that is smooth, durable and suitable for walking, cycling and use by mobility devices, such as wheelchairs. A dashed centre line will be painted down the centre to provide separation based on direction of travel. Significant efforts have been made to coordinate the construction in manageable chunks to avoid lengthy closures and to minimize the disturbance to important community events like “Ribfest” and “Sound of Music Festival”. To date this project is proceeding on time and within budget.

Once Phases 1a and 1b are completed, staff will continue with the implementation process and focus on the Beachway Park portion of the Regional Park. Prior to detailed

design and construction commencing in this section of the park, several studies need to be completed to provide the technical guidance necessary to protect and restore those portions of the Regional Natural Heritage System located within the beach area. These studies were identified through the 2015 Master Plan approval process as being required prior to advancing the implementation process in the beach area. They include:

- An Environmental Impact Assessment
- An Invasive Species Management Plan
- A Beach and Dune Management Plan
- An Engineering Feasibility Study for a pedestrian boardwalk
- An Adaptive Management Plan

By having these studies completed at this stage in the project, the Region can integrate the most current information and scientific knowledge of the area into the design process. This will ensure that the decisions made on a go forward basis are consistent with the Region's natural heritage system policies and stewardship objectives. This work will also ensure that the overall ecological health of this area is continuously improved over time through the implementation of a long term environmental management and monitoring plan. Once these studies have been substantially completed, staff will prepare an RFP to secure the services of a landscape architect led consultant team to lead under the direction of Regional and City staff, the completion of the detailed design and construction tender drawings required to continue the phased Master Plan implementation process.

FINANCIAL/PROGRAM IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Respectfully submitted,



Curt Benson
Acting Director, Planning Services

Approved by



Jane MacCaskill
Chief Administrative Officer

If you have any questions on the content of this report,
please contact:

Curt Benson
Stirling Todd

Tel. # 7181
Tel. # 7186

Attachments: None