



The Corporation of the Township of Huron-Kinloss

Staff Report

Report Title: Parks and Trail Plan and Kin Bruce Residents Letter

Date: May. 5, 2025

Report Number: CS-2025-14

Department: Community Services

File Number: C11 CS 25

Prepared By: Mike Fair, Director of Community Services

Attachments: Correspondence to Council, Pl.ural updated ratios, Parks and Trails Plan

Recommendation:

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby approves Report Number CS-2025-14 prepared by Mike Fair, Director of Community Services;

AND FURTHER that a by-law be brought forward to amend the Parks and Trails plan to include the updated ratios;

AND FURTHER that Staff be directed to respond to the correspondence to Council as outlined in the report.

Background:

Parks and Trails Plan update

The calculations presented in the Parks and Trails plan adopted in December of 2024 regarding the ratio to Park land were incorrect. The consultants Pl.ural confirmed that the decimal point used was incorrect and have since provided an updated version of the parkland ratios and the two-page update is attached.

Letter from Kin Bruce Residents regarding Kin Bruce Park

A letter from the Kin Bruce resident Alan Wilkins representing the "Neighbours of Kin-Bruce Park" is attached. The letter has two requested changes to the Parks and Trails Plan:

- 1) Pl.ural has recommended that the Parkland Classification for Kin-Bruce Park be changed from the 2022 Parks and Recreation Master Plan designation of "Local Community Park" to a new Classification of "Regional Multi-Sport Facility". We request that Kin-Bruce Park designation remain as "Local Community Park."
- 2) We request that Kin-Bruce Park be removed from "Section 9 Direction for Surplus Parkland/Greenspace". We request that all references to Repurposing or Redevelopment for Kin-Bruce Park be deleted.

Discussion/Analysis/Overview:

Parks and Trails Plan update

The consultants Pl.ural confirmed that the decimal point used was incorrect and have since provided an updated version of the parkland ratios. The two pages regarding the parkland ratio are attached that provide accurate information regarding the ratio. As a baseline, an acceptable target ratio for rural Ontario Municipalities is between 3 to 5 hectares of parkland per 1,000 resident population.

The Parkland Ratio Assessment indicates that the Township of Huron- Kinloss maintains an acceptable ratio of parkland for the community, currently at 3.78 hectares per 1,000 resident population. This is above the average for comparator municipalities, with a provision of 3.73 hectares per 1,000 resident population.

Additionally, if beachfront areas, open and natural greenspaces were included in the 'Huron-Kinloss Current Parkland Provision' calculation, Huron-Kinloss would surpass comparable municipalities by a wide margin at 7.43 hectares per 1000 resident population. As a result, Huron-Kinloss provides its community with ample outdoor and recreational opportunities.

Notes: * Total Parkland is calculated from the 18 park sites indicated in the scope of work. The 'Huron-Kinloss Current Parkland Provision' total does not include areas of beachfront, open and natural greenspace that some comparator Municipalities have included in their parkland supply. These spaces (beachfront, open and natural green space) do contribute to supporting the health and well-being of the Huron-Kinloss community and should be considered when reviewing outdoor and recreational offerings in the future.

Letter from Kin Bruce Residents regarding Kin Bruce Park

The attached letter was provided for Council consideration and includes two requests of Council. The first request includes the following: The recommended Parkland Classification for Kin-Bruce Park be changed back from the new Classification of "Regional Multi-Sport Facility" to "Local Community Park."

Staff propose the following information be provided: the Parks and Trails Plan acts as a guide to future decisions regarding the Parks and Trails in Huron-Kinloss. The designation provides flexibility for future development options within the five-acre park. The current park currently has a baseball diamond and play structures in the park. The designation does open up the possibility of options such as pickleball, basketball, and volleyball within the park and suggests that those options should be considered in the future and a decision made at that time if anything was ever proposed.

The second request includes the following: We request that Kin-Bruce Park be removed from "Section 9 Direction for Surplus Parkland/Greenspace". We request that all references to Repurposing or Redevelopment for Kin-Bruce Park be deleted.

Once again, Staff propose the response include: the Parks and Trails Plan acts as a guide only to future decisions regarding the Parks and Trails in Huron-Kinloss. The designation provides flexibility for future development options within the five-acre park and that a decision be made in the future if anything was ever proposed.

Staff recommends that the Parkland Ratio section of the Parks and Trails Plan be updated and direct staff to provide a response on behalf of Council to the correspondence as outlined in the report.

Financial Impacts:

None at this time.

Performance Measurement:

N/A

Strategic Area:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Embrace a thriving rural lifestyle | <input type="checkbox"/> Enhance Municipal Service Delivery |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare for Inclusive Growth | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ensure Financial Stability |

Strategic Goal: Facilitate Community Well Being

Respectfully Submitted By:

Mike Fair, Director of Community Services

Report Approved By:

Jodi MacArthur, Chief Administrative Officer