

April 17, 2025

To: Township of Huron-Kinloss Council

Re: Kin-Bruce Park designation in The Township of Huron-Kinloss Parks and Trails Plan November 2024

I am writing this as a representative of the “Neighbours of Kin-Bruce Park” and as a follow-up to our April 7<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole presentations to you.

Our group is making an official request of Council to instruct the firm of pl.ural modify “The Township of Huron-Kinloss Parks and Trails Plan Strategic Report, November 2024”. We are requesting the following 2 changes relating to the Kin-Bruce Park. We will explain the reasons for each of the changes we are requesting.

**Change #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”.

**Rational:**

At a April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting between Dale Shewfelt, myself, Mike Fair and Matt McClinchey it was confirmed that the change to “Regional Multi-Sport Facility” designation was a result of a Municipal staff request meant to accommodate the Indoor Turf Facility proposal by Bluewater Sports Management. For the many reasons stated in our April 7 Presentation to Council, Kin-Bruce Park is not suitable for a Regional Multi-Sport Facility nor is a Regional Multi-Sport Facility required as stated in the 2022 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

**Change #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.

**Rational:**

As demonstrated in our April 7<sup>th</sup> Presentation to Council, Huron-Kinloss does not have a surplus of parkland, indeed by many comparisons it has a deficit of parkland. Kin-Bruce Park is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest park in the Township's inventory. Removal of this Park will make the deficit even greater. This doesn't even take into account that the population of Huron-Kinloss is expected to increase by at least another 1,000 residents in the next 10 years. Kin-Bruce Park is required to satisfy the needs of the North Lakeshore Zone of the Township.

We have been told that the likelihood of another development being proposed for Kin-Bruce Park is small for the foreseeable future. However, the "2024 Township of Huron-Kinloss Parks and Trails Plan" is now an official Township planning document. Future councils and staff may use the pl.ural report as justification for removing Kin-Bruce Park from service or redevelopment. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the Township of Huron-Kinloss will be rewritten sometime around 2032. When the Master Plan is renewed the pl.ural report will undoubtedly be referenced.

pl.ural has already modified one section of their report to correct the Parkland/Resident Ratio. This modified report will have to come back to Council for approval. It would be efficient to have the changes we are requesting completed now so the report does not have to come back for Council approval yet again in the future.

We hope that Huron-Kinloss council seriously consider our request for "Parks and Trails Plan" revisions. If you would like to have further in-person discussions we are always willing and available.

Thank you for your time and attention.

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