

## Staff Report 2023-0107

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Meeting Date: September 12, 2023

Subject: Ward 1 Therapy Pool Recommendation

Submitted By: Jessica Stovin, Manager, Community Recreation, Community Services

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### RECOMMENDATION

That the Northwest Caledon Recreation Facility Reserve be allocated to a recreation facility to be determined through the 2024 Facility Needs Assessment.

### REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- 2014 – Caledon Village Pool was decommissioned, and the Northwest Caledon Indoor Recreation Facility Reserve was established.
- 2015 – The Parks and Recreation Visioning Exercise clarified the need for additional pools in Mayfield West 1 and opportunity for Caledon East Community Complex.
- 2017 – The Facility Needs Assessment outlined the service level ratio for pools per population and determined that a total of 4 pools met the requirement.
- 2022 – A Motion was adopted by Council where staff were directed to investigate the feasibility of constructing and operating a community/therapeutic pool in Ward 1.
- 2023 – The draft Recreation and Parks Strategy outlines the rationale behind not recommending that a standalone pool be constructed in Ward 1.
- 2024 – A Facility Needs Assessment will be conducted to provide details on the facility build requirements, including Mayfield Recreation Complex rehabilitation, Mayfield West 2, and Ward 1 Recreation Opportunities.
- Staff recommend that the Northwest Caledon Recreation Facility Reserve be allocated to the results of the Facility Needs Assessment.

### DISCUSSION

The purpose of this report is to follow up on the May 2022 Notice Motion regarding the Ward 1 Pool and seek approval for the future allocation of the Northwest Caledon Recreation Facility Reserve.

#### **Background: Decommissioning of Caledon Village Pool and Current Pool Inventory**

On March 18, 2014, Council approved report PREC-2014-003: Caledon Central Pool Update, where the Caledon Village Pool was permanently closed, removed from the Parks and Recreation inventory, and a capital budget reserve was established as part of the 2015 Budget to fund the building of a northwest Caledon indoor recreation facility.

Following the decommissioning of the pool, a Parks and Recreation Visioning exercise was conducted in 2015 as a mid-check point to the 2010 Recreation and Parks Master Plan. The Visioning Report recommended a third pool in Mayfield West 1 (Southfields Community Centre) and a fourth in Caledon East (Caledon East Community Complex). A pool in Ward 1 was not recommended.

This recommendation was further supported by the 2017 Facility Needs Assessment where Caledon's desire to deliver a relatively high service standard ratio of one pool for every 25,000 residents was outlined. This service standard ratio has been met through the construction of the Southfields Community Centre pool (3 pools), and projected need for one additional smaller-format indoor pool, has been provided by expanding the Caledon East Community Complex (an inventory of four pools in total).

As of September 2023, the Southfields Community Centre and Caledon East Community Complex pools are operational, increasing the pool inventory to four (4 total) pool locations in Caledon and meeting the standard ratio of pools per population.

### **Notice of Motion**

On May 24, 2022, a Motion was adopted by Council where staff were directed to investigate the feasibility of constructing and operating a community/therapeutic pool in Ward 1. Items for consideration as part of the feasibility assessment, included:

- utilizing several separate pools for swimming lessons, seniors exercise and therapeutic uses;
- combining the pool building in a new park area adjacent to a settlement;
- potential locations;
- partnership with Headwaters Hospital;
- contracts with a private physiotherapy clinic;
- draft capital and operating budget; and
- and projected users.

The directive in the Motion was included the first phase of the Parks and Recreation Strategy (PRS) scope of work and presented to the consulting team for consideration, research and analysis.

### **Recreation and Parks Strategy**

The PRS commenced in November 2022, with Thinc Design as the consulting firm, and is currently in draft form. The draft PRS acknowledges the long-standing conversation around the decommissioning of the Caledon Village Pool and the proposed replacement with a therapeutic pool. As a result, recommendations have been proposed that specifically address amenities in Ward 1. Ultimately, draft PRS recommends that a stand-alone pool not be constructed in Ward 1 for the following reasons:

- Therapeutic pools are specialized facilities and when provided by municipalities, they are typically one component of a full-service aquatic facility to minimize the capital and operation budget impacts. In addition to municipal programming, optimizing use of a therapeutic pool often depends on rentals to hospitals or private practice therapists (typically this type of user and their clients are urban based).
- A stand-alone facility does not align with the Community Hub Model, an indoor facility development standard that optimizes on co-location of facilities in urban areas.
- Residents of this area are within reasonable travel distances to indoor pools in Caledon East and Orangeville; a subsidy program is available to residents in Ward 1 who access aquatic programs in Orangeville.

- The industry standard pool inventory ratio (1: 25000) indicates four pools in Caledon meets the needs of the community up to 2030; when applied to the Caledon population projections past 2030, the PRS draft indicates the need for an additional .5 pools in the future which can be achieved in the future build of the Mayfield West 2 facility.

### **2024 Facility Needs Assessment**

Utilizing the direction provided in the Parks and Recreation Strategy, staff will complete a Facility Needs Assessment (FNA) in 2024. This work will provide specific direction for planning recreation services and amenities in Caledon up to 2051 including the future state of Mayfield Recreation Complex, Mayfield West 2, and recreation opportunities in Ward 1 as well as the Bolton Growth areas. The FNA will also make recommendations for supporting active recreation opportunities in Caledon beyond traditional community hub facility models and capitalizing on existing amenities (ie; enhancing parks to add splash pads, the addition of outdoor skating amenities, repurposing underutilized facilities).

Based on the recommendation that Ward 1 does not require a pool and in anticipation of the Facility Needs Assessment, it is proposed that the Northwest Caledon Indoor Recreation Facility Reserve Fund be directed to a recreation amenity in Ward 1 as proposed in the 2024 Facility Needs Assessment.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The current uncommitted balance of the Northwest Caledon Indoor Recreation Facility reserve is \$1,290,764.57.

### **COUNCIL WORK PLAN**

**Sustainable Growth**

**Improved Service Delivery**

### **ATTACHMENTS**

None.