

Report to Council

Report Title: Recreation Master Services and Facilities Plan Two Year Progress Update

Prepared By: Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services

Department: Recreation

Date: March 18, 2025

Report Number: REC2025-06

File Number: C11REC, C08

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number REC2025-06 – Recreation Master Services and Facilities Plan Two Year Progress Update, prepared by Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services for information purposes.

Report:

Background:

The Recreation Master Services and Facilities Plan is a Council approved document intended to guide and focus recreation services, programs, open spaces and facilities for a ten-year period of 2023-2033. The plan was developed through consultation with residents, user groups, stakeholders, municipal staff and council to ensure the vision, goals and recommendations reflect the needs and priorities of the community. The plan included in-depth analysis and assessment of recreation programs and events, facilities, open spaces and service delivery, while considering a range of other factors that impact recreation planning such as anticipated demographic changes, community demand and trends.

The plan is a guiding document that outlines a series of immediate, short, medium, long-term recommendations for the development, enhancement, and management of recreation facilities, open spaces and services within our municipality. Its 178 recommendations were developed to guide future strategies and actions to invest in new and revitalized recreational facilities and affordable, accessible programs that meet the needs of people of all ages in their community.

The Plan's recommendations are based on evaluation of 4 key pillars:

1. Recreation Programs and Events
2. Facilities
3. Open Spaces
4. Service Delivery

Analysis:

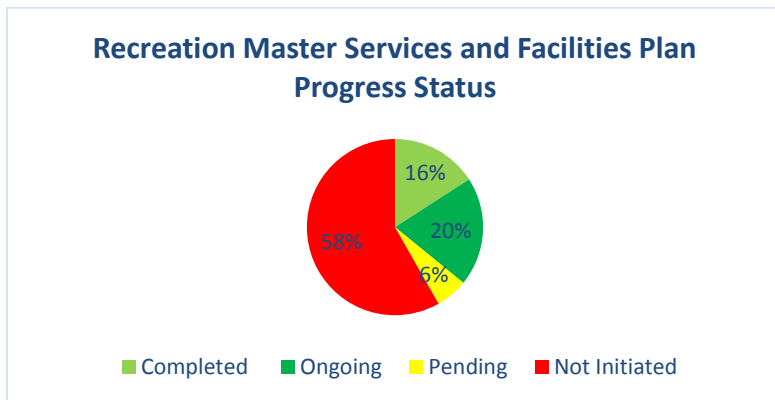
The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a progress update on the Recreation Master Services and Facilities Plan, adopted by Council in March 2023, By-Law 2022-025. It highlights key updates and provides context on the ongoing validity of the ten-year plan and our department priorities.

Staff have categorized the progress status as:

- Ongoing- described as action has been engaged and constant
- Not Initiated- Has not been started
- Pending- waiting on funding approval
- Completed

Two years into the ten-year plan of the 178 actions recommended in the plan:

- 34 are ongoing
- 99 have not been initiated
- 10 are pending
- 27 are completed



Some of the key progress and achievements:

- Activate underused facilities to meet demand for additional access to ball diamonds during the term of the Master Plan- Cargill Ball Diamond usage increased in 2024 by 43%
- Implement current plans to refurbish Centennial Park tennis courts to accommodate pickleball and tennis- Project completed September 2024
- Develop a signage strategy, develop trail standards and guidelines, create trailhead standards- all new signs purchased and installed on trail heads and continue to work towards replacement in all parks and facilities.
- Promote parks as event spaces- Christmas Market, Summer Streetfest, Music in the Park operating out of Downtown Market Garden Park
- Develop a dog park- Dog Park Pilot project implemented May 2024
- Update playgrounds- completed resurfacing in Cargill Playground June 2024, extension of Optimist Park Phase 2 completed Fall 2024, Elmwood Playground resurfacing completed June 2023

- Replace dugout shelter roof- Cargill Diamonds completed June 2024, Elmwood Diamonds Summer 2023
- Add secondary parking lot near ball diamond- Elmwood Summer 2024
- Add new washrooms and canteen facility- Bruce Power Soccer Field completed June 2024
- Continue offering municipal programming for diverse age groups and interests- Created programs tailored for seniors, adults and youth.
- Continue supporting and promoting user groups that deliver recreation programs and events in the community- hosted 2 successful Special Event planning meetings with local associations and organizations.
- Develop drop-in/informal social hours for dedicated groups (e.g., youth, new parents, seniors, newcomers to the community)- Seniors groups currently utilize space at all Brockton facilities. Youth drop-in programs are on-going during the school year, including dodgeball and basketball.
- Expand supply of non-sports programming by providing more short-duration programming models (e.g., pilots, workshops, try-it days, program packages, drop-ins)- Offered workshop style programming within this past year (2024), including painting/arts events. Rolling out Pickleball "Learn to Play" and "Enhance Skills" clinics for 2025.
- Consider creating dedicated Recreation & Leisure social media accounts to promote activities- Currently using Brockton's social media accounts to promote trails, skating loop, community gardens, Brockton parks and more.
- Consult with User groups and facility providers to improve communication and collaboration- Annual user group meetings occurred in 2024 and scheduled for 2025.
- Continue to support both lawn bowling clubs in Brockton

There have also been several ongoing maintenance and accessibility upgrades at recreational facilities since 2023:

- Staff participated in an accessibility consultant session held in the fall 2024 at the Walkerton Community Centre
- Staff developed a catalogue of accessible issues and priorities based on accessibility consultant recommendations.
- Many of these recommendations have been completed including improved signage, lighting, new ramp and viewing platform constructed, fully accessible washroom completed

Looking forward, notable upcoming priority projects that will help advance the Plan throughout 2025 and beyond include:

- Success with grant funding to support the future of the Walkerton Community Centre and proposed new arena
- Develop and implement a formal, coordinated marketing/promotion plan for Elmwood and Cargill Community Centres, in consultation with the joint Board of the former, to include facility availability and capacity for all potential uses.
- Continue to implement Brockton's Asset Management Plan
- Ball Diamond light replacement at the Walkerton Diamonds.

- Improve utilization of recreation management software to collect and tabulate data in a manner that contributes to facility planning.
- Install water safety stations.
- Develop trail connections in Walkerton.
- Upgrades and revitalizing Heritage Water Garden
- Upgrade playground equipment
- Add backstop/netting at Bruce Power Soccer Park- Install to begin Spring 2025
- Develop an event policy to guide the Municipality's support to providers for, and management of, community-oriented and visitor-attractive events.
- Consideration given to hiring of a Volunteer and Event Coordinator on a trial basis for three years to take responsibility for developing and supporting community volunteers in providing parks and recreation services.

Significant progress has been made in executing the Recreation Master Services and Facilities Plan. This plan continues to be valid and relevant in guiding the municipalities recreational programming, services and facilities and that progress continues to be made in implementing its recommended actions.

Strategic Action Plan Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Strategic Action Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • Recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Heritage, Culture, and Community | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Quality of Life | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment | N/A |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Development | N/A |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Municipal Governance | Yes |

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective?
N/A

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services

Reviewed By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sonya Watson", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer