



City of
Peterborough

To: **Members of the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee**

From: **Rob Anderson, Recreation Division Coordinator**

Meeting Date: **April 21, 2015**

Subject: **Report APRAC15-021
Ireland Drive Parkland Development**

Purpose

A report to respond to a resolution adopted by Council on March 16, 2015, pertaining to the development of an active park/playground within the Ireland Drive subdivision.

Recommendations

That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (APRAC) approve the recommendations outlined in Report APRAC15-021 dated April 21, 2015, of the Recreation Division Coordinator, as follows:

- a) That report APRAC15-021 be received for information;
- b) That Staff be directed to undertake a process to determine the feasibility to develop 1497 Ireland drive as active parkland and establish the associated costs, once the homes immediately east of the property have been constructed, and the top soil and seeding of the site is completed.
- c) That Staff report back to APRAC following the process identified in recommendation (b) of this report.

Budget and Financial Implications

There is no immediate budget or financial implication resulting from the approval of the recommendations of report CSRS15-002. If 1497 Ireland Drive is determined to be viable for development as active parkland, the associated budget and financial implications will be addressed in a future report.

Background

Recently, several City Staff as well as both Monaghan Ward Councillors were contacted by a resident of Ireland Drive, who raised a concern about the lack of parks and recreational facilities in relative proximity to the residents in the area of Ireland Drive. The resident stated that several residents in this area have lived there for five-plus years and would like to see some degree of active parkland developed within the neighbourhood. The resident was inquiring about a parcel of City owned land along the north side of Ireland Drive, near Bianco Crescent, which she believed had been dedicated for parkland development. The subject property is municipally known as 1497 Ireland Drive.

The matter was addressed by Council at its meeting of March 16, 2015, with the following resolution being adopted:

That City Staff prepare a report on options, costs and neighbourhood participation for the provision of an active park/playground in the area of Ireland Drive.

Dedicated Parkland/Open Space in the Ireland Drive Area

The parkland/open space acquired by the City in the Ireland Drive area was intended to serve both as an environmental buffer to the Loggerhead Marsh and for passive recreation purposes. The majority of the parkland/open space is located behind homes on Ireland Drive and does not have the desired street frontage, to promote accessibility and visibility, which the Official Plan specifies for parks.

When this neighbourhood was first conceived, it was thought that the nearby schools would provide the active playground space for the area. However, as the neighbourhood developed, the demand for additional active park space was identified. In response to that demand, playground equipment was added to Giles Park in 2006, through the Community Assistance Program.

Potential for Active Parkland on Ireland Drive

The only land in the Ireland Drive area that may be suitable for active parkland is approximately half an acre of City owned land, at 1497 Ireland Drive (the subject property). For reference, an aerial view of the subject property is attached as Appendix

“A”. The subject property is not immediately available for development. Until the homes are constructed on the building lots immediately to the east of the subject property, it remains part of a construction zone, and will be accessed by heavy equipment for the duration of construction. At this time, the City has not been notified of the estimated time frame for that construction.

Approximately 1/3 of the property is encumbered with an easement. The easement provides maintenance vehicle access to the storm water management pond on the adjacent property to the west. Therefore, a process would need to be undertaken to determine the feasibility for development of the site as active parkland, as well as the amenities that could be located there.

Staff recommends that the process to determine the feasibility of developing the subject property not proceed until the construction of the homes immediately to the east of the subject property is finished, and the top soil and seeding of the site is completed.

Staff will report back to APRAC once the feasibility of developing park amenities at the subject property is determined, and the associated costs are established.

Recreation Staff has extended an invitation to the Ireland Drive resident, to contact City Staff to learn about how the City can assist the neighbourhood residents through the Community Assistance program.

Submitted by,

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Recreation Division Coordinator

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Attachments:
Appendix A - Aerial View of 1497 Ireland Drive