



Subject: H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park Trail Replacement

To: Council

From: Public Works Department

Report Number: 2023-112

Meeting Date: June 13, 2023

Recommendation:

That Public Works Department Report 2023-112 be received; and

That the recommended trail realignment shown in Appendix A and associated works, be approved.

Purpose:

Staff recommend a realignment to H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park's (the park) internal trail system, removal of the central gazebo, and relocation of select trees and benches within the central area of the park to provide a greater open space area, increase accessibility, and provide an overall better user experience.

Background:

The Public Works Department manages an annual asphalt program that consists of road patching, road resurfacing, and asphalt trail installation and maintenance. Staff have been systematically replacing the stamped asphalt trail system throughout the park due to its condition and rough rideability. Recent trail replacements include the north-south trail from the splash pad to the pedestrian bridge, the west-east trail on top of the hill, and a new speed cushion to increase pedestrian safety while accessing the food vendor parkette.

Discussion:

The central west-east trail leading from the band shell to the north-south trail (parallel with the east parking lot) has been identified for replacement. While reviewing the upcoming asphalt program, staff have identified an opportunity to increase the user experience and provide greater accessibility in the playground and splash pad area. Appendix A illustrates the proposed reconfiguration of the central trail network which provides a trail on the west side of the playground and splash pad, along with a direct trail to the band shell. This increases accessibility around the play structures while increasing the usable area in the southern section of the park for sports and events. The trail relocation also includes spading and relocating select trees in the middle of the park to the outside park perimeter to ensure open space is maximized in the southern area of the park. The gazebo was installed in the late 1990's to early 2000's and is not being considered for replacement. Memorial trees and benches in the area of the gazebo will be relocated to a new location within the park after consulting with the advocates of the dedicatees.

Future works will include greater connectivity on the west side of the park prioritizing connections from the boat launch to the band shell, and from the Sugarloaf Street and Fielden Avenue intersection to the western parking area. These additional legs of the trail network, and replacement of the remainder of stamped asphalt, will complete the overall vision of a connected trail system in the park.

Internal Consultations:

The Recreation Division and Events team have been consulted and are thrilled to create a greater open space area for sports and events in the City's premier lakefront park.

Financial Implications:

The central west-east trail has been identified for replacement and is already budgeted through the Public Work's Operating Budget. Staff recommend that the difference of \$28,500 (\$58,500 less \$30,000) in cost to construct the enhanced design as proposed in Appendix A be funded from the Capital Over/Short and Contingency accounts. At the time of writing this report the account balance is \$148,000. These accounts are a result of closing out other previous capital projects under budget. The next update on capital projects will come to Council at the June 27, 2023 meeting, where staff will highlight additional projects being closed out under budget.

The difference in costs from replacing the existing trail to constructing the design proposed is outlined in the table below:

Item	Replace Existing	Enhanced Design
Trail	\$30,000	\$45,000
Tree Relocation	\$0	\$8,500
Gazebo Removal	\$0	\$5,000
Total	\$30,000	\$58,500

Note, the \$15,000 difference in trail costs is attributed to the removal and restoration of the existing trail area and the need to excavate and place a granular base in the new location.

Public Engagement:

Staff recommend the improvements in Appendix A to enhance the everyday user experience and the many events held at the park for the City's residents and tourists.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

The initiative contained within this report supports the following pillars of the strategic plan:

- Attracting Business Investment and Tourists to Port Colborne
- City-Wide Investments in Infrastructure and Recreational/Cultural Spaces

Conclusion:

Staff are determined to increase the user experience throughout the City's parks. This recommendation provides a better trail riding experience, greater accessibility to areas of congregation like the benches on the west side of the playground and splash pad, and a greater open space area for sports and events.

Appendices:

- a. H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park Trail Map

Respectfully submitted,

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Report Approval:

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final review and approval by the Chief Administrative Officer.