

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

Emergency and Community Services : November 7, 2024

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR M. WILSON

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR T. HWANG.....

Assessment of Municipal Golf Courses

WHEREAS, Hamilton is served by three public golf courses with a total of 54 holes;

WHEREAS, the City's public golf facilities require significant capital investment, all three courses are rated in poor condition, and half of support facilities were rated in very poor and poor condition in the City's 2024 asset management plan;

WHEREAS, the above ground infrastructure deficit at Chedoke Golf totals \$17 million while the state of the below ground irrigation system has yet to be determined;

WHEREAS, an underground irrigation line break at Chedoke Golf led to an additional usage charge of approximately \$440,000 over a three year period;

WHEREAS, there is no existing capital reserve for the City's golf operations;

WHEREAS, the City has publicly reported that it is not able to fund maintenance work on existing recreation assets at an acceptable rate provided in the current budget;

WHEREAS, there are no identified budgets to fund and maintain major acquisitions as identified in the City's Recreation Master Plan, including:

- Two (2) New Outdoor Artificial Ice Facility Spaces;
- Four (4) Community Recreation Centres Expansions;
- Four (4) New Community Recreation Centres; and,
- Two (2) Senior Centre Expansions

WHEREAS, Council has identified a desire to improve the local environment to further advance its goals of improved watershed management, climate change adaption, and biodiversity as set out in its Watershed Action Plan, Climate Action Plan, Parks Master Plan, and Biodiversity Action Plan;

WHEREAS, future population growth and development (new greenfield and redevelopment) requires careful management of stormwater runoff from the impacts of urbanization (impervious / hard surfaces) on the natural environment and public safety;

WHEREAS, new provincial guidelines have stressed the importance of controlling stormwater runoff at the source using better site design, retention practices, and filtration practices.

WHEREAS, green drainage infrastructure can retain water and reduce the amount of rain going directly into the City's sewer system and help with the risk of flooding;

WHEREAS, the Recreation Master Plan recognized a deficit of green space available to all Hamiltonians, particularly residents in wards 2 and 3;

WHEREAS, the Parks Master Plan has identified the need for more greenspace, including in the lower city, using an equity based analysis; and

WHEREAS, the City's golf course operations have previously been reviewed and assessed;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That staff be directed to assess how publicly owned parklands at the Chedoke Golf Club might address the existing inequitable access to greenspace, natural area restoration, storm water management, community agriculture and biodiversity rather than keeping all the golf course lands exclusively as golf courses, with a report back to the Emergency and Community Services Committee in Q4 2025;
- (b) That this review of municipal golf course lands be conducted within the stated goals of the City's watershed action plan, biodiversity action plan, recreation master plan, parks master plan, and climate action plan so that future use of these parklands benefit the resiliency, health and well-being of all Hamiltonians; and
- (c) That the Chedoke parklands remain publicly owned in perpetuity.