

100 John West Way Aurora, Ontario L4G 6J1 (905) 727-3123 aurora.ca

Town of Aurora **Memorandum** Operational Services

Re:	2025 Park Project Updates
То:	Accessibility Advisory Committee
From:	Matthew Volpintesta, Manager of Parks and Fleet
Date:	April 9, 2025

Recommendation

- 1. That the memorandum regarding 2025 Park Project Updates be received; and
- 2. That the Accessibility Advisory Committee comments regarding General 2025 Park Project Updates be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Background

This memo provides a brief update on major capital projects in 2025, including both new capital projects and continuation of projects from previous capital budgets. These include, but are not limited to, playground improvements, major park upgrades, new parks and sports fields. With accessibility at the forefront of park design, the Town is committed to considering all options when designing barrier-free play spaces.

Analysis

Fleury Park – Funding Increase

Fleury Park renovations are currently in the design and development phase, with public consultation wrapping up in March. During a public open house and through online engagement, fulsome feedback was received including over 100 survey responses which identified a strong preference for accessible playground features, as well as a splashpad. As such, staff are preparing a report seeking direction from Council which details design options and budgetary considerations. Comments received from this committee in this regard, will be detailed in the future Council report. Construction is tentatively planned to begin late 2025 into 2026.

Evans Park

As part of the 2024 capital budget, designs for a new playground were completed in 2024, and are now being tendered out for contract. It is expected this work will begin early spring and will be completed by end of June.

Lambert Willson Volleyball Court Expansion

The expansion of the volleyball courts at Lambert Willson Park are in the early stages of re-design. The expansion will feature an additional two courts, with a small amenity space including seating for players and spectators, as well as professional quality play sand and new netting systems. It is expected the overall footprint will be marginally expanded, with construction to commence in 2026 pending budget approval.

LED Light Upgrades

As part of a 5-year plan to upgrade recreational facility lighting, the Town's LED Upgrade report highlights priority targets for replacement. This year, the Town will focus on Summit Park tennis facilities, and the bowling green at McMahon Park. This work will aim to be completed before the play season begins pending contract awarding.

McMahon Park Bowling Green Improvements

The bowling green at McMahon Park will undergo improvements to the curbing and bumper systems in 2025, including an upgrade to LED lighting to improve sight and accessibility for playing. This work is planned to be completed before play season begins; however, the lighting upgrades may possibly be delayed until later into the season.

Court Improvements

Multi-use court improvements are scheduled to be completed this spring at Trent and Edward Coltham Parks. This includes minor expansion and refurbishment upgrades to the court surfacing, including new perimeter fencing, posts, and netting. Additionally, as part of 2025 capital improvements, David English, Norm Weller, and Thomas Coates' courts will see similar upgrades later this year.

Town Park Splash Pad

As part of the 2024 planned improvements to Town Park, we will complete a replacement of the splash pad in-ground sprinklers as well as repairs to the rubber surfacing to include replacement of a new centrepiece bucket style water feature. This work is currently being tendered and anticipated to be completed before the operational season begins.

Tom's Park

Tom's Park will see a replacement of the play structure, and pavement of the park pathway system. This work is queued and expected to be completed later this year.

Thelma Fielding Park

The newly adopted Thelma Fielding Park will officially open in spring 2025, featuring a new playground, public amenity space and new turf field in partnership with St. Anne's School. An opening celebration is currently being planned for late spring.

Trails

Trail development continues in 2025, with more complex projects brought forward from last year's capital budget. These include Butternut Ridge, Mattamy Development phases 4 and 5, Degraaf Crescent, the development northwest of St. John's Sideroad and Yonge Street, Benjamin Pearson Parkette boardwalk, and the David Tomlinson Nature Reserve. Design is currently underway for all projects, with construction planned through 2025 into 2026.

Sheppard's Bush Artificial Turf

The new artificial turf field at Sheppard's Bush is currently under construction and planned to be completed by June of this year. The field is part of a continued partnership with the Aurora Barbarians Rugby Club, and will feature lining for rugby, and soccer.

Summit Park

Summit Park improvement works are continuing in 2025. Last year, a new playground and fitness facility were installed. This year, refurbishments to the park pathway system and multi-use court will be completed to provide better accessibility. The tennis facility

will also see upgrades to LED lighting as part of the 5-year LED improvement plan. This work is expected to begin late March and completed later this year.

Attachments

None.