

## **APPENDIX #1 Council Direction for Parkland Strategy**

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The following discussion statements were presented to Council for review January 4, 2001. Council agreed with all statements except Discussion statement #7 which referred to a municipal role in turf maintenance and capital improvements for athletic fields.

### **OVERALL STATEMENTS**

#### **1. The Municipality should become more involved with parkland in Colchester County.**

- Recreation Associations & community groups traditionally provide structured rec services;
- These groups should remain the backbone of recreation in Colchester;
- Groups have limited resources and depend on volunteers;
- Require assistance to maintain what they have - unable to assume new responsibilities;
- The Municipality should become an active partner in providing parkland service.

#### **2. Of the options, programming, facility maintenance and development, and facilitation/ support, the Municipality should increase participation in facility maintenance and development.**

- Difficult for volunteers to do it all ~ build, maintain and program or coach;
- Community volunteers should be able to run a program such as soccer or painting club if there is interest;
- With limited resources, Associations will not assume responsibility for new park sites as our communities grow.

### **PROVISION OF PARKLAND - Neighbourhood Parks**

#### **3. There should be a reasonable distribution of Parkland and Trails within suburban Colchester based on the following guidelines.**

- Suburban communities of Colchester include: Valley, Salmon River, Hilden, Truro Heights, North River (sewer). Tatamagouche & Brookfield could be included;
- Suggested distribution:
  - 2 hectares/ 1,000 population,
  - ½ mile radius travel distance,

- equates to 3% of a typical community;

- Park Size 2acres±. Enough space for:
  - ~ playground equipment,
  - ~accommodate unstructured play beyond backyard;
  - ~ buffers from neighbours;
- Designate school sites as Neighbourhood Parks where appropriate & partner with School Board;
- Trail networks important park space:
  - ~create links to destinations such as schools and parks;
  - ~trail use popular form of fitness
  - promotes healthy, active lifestyle for all ages;
  - ~unstructured activity fits all schedules and ability levels;

## ***DEVELOPMENT & MAINTENANCE***

**4. Municipality has a responsibility to bring municipally owned park and open space sites (to be retained) to a minimal maintainable standard and provide maintenance on an ongoing basis.**

**5. Park development beyond minimum maintainable standards should be undertaken in partnership with other stakeholders.**

- Through Subdivision Bylaw, the Municipality holds 40+ park & open space sites;
- Most municipal sites remain undeveloped;
- Often the derelict lot of a subdivision - potential liability;
- The Municipality has obligation to maintain sites at minimum level;
- Sites, to be retained, should have a development plan prepared based on sites attributes & community input. Potential use as play or environmental openspace;
- Improvement to a minimum maintainable standard phased over time based on resources & priority;
- Maintenance program phased in afterward;
- Capital upgrades should be encouraged through partnership with Community Associations, School Board, the Municipality etc;

## ***MUNICIPALLY OWNED (5%) SITES***

### **6. The Municipality should adopt policy procedures for the acquisition of new parkland and disposition of redundant sites.**

- Municipality has obligation to provide reasonable amount of parkland/ play space for its residents;
- Important component of Community and a local government responsibility;
- Subdivision process enables the Municipality to acquire new parkland as communities grow;
- Municipality should be prepared to purchase land in areas of demand and little option to meet through subdivision. (Truro Heights for example);
- Disposal of park sites requires community consultation and a park strategy context for the community or neighbourhood;

## ***ATHLETIC SITES***

### ***Council did not agree with discussion statement 7.***

### **7. The Municipality should support turf maintenance or capital improvements for athletic fields.**

- Recreation Associations and other volunteer groups should continue to provide organized athletics and other recreation programming;
- The main field sports are soccer and ball;
- Soccer is provided by a regional Association, ball by local Associations under a regional umbrella organization;
- Ball program suffering from a sharp drop in participation. Associations must consider increased cooperation and reduction in fields;

8. The Municipality should continue to help volunteer groups to meet new programming needs of the community.

## ***RURAL COLCHESTER***

**9. Provision of parkland in Rural Colchester should be driven by local need and interest.**

**10. The Municipality should make funds available for capital improvements of park sites.**

- Large residential lots and low density development - less need for play and park space;
- Interest and opportunity varies for each community - impossible to administer uniform standards;
- Nelson and Stewiacke Park main rural facilities - serve regional community;
- Provincial Parks are also available in Rural Colchester and provide unique opportunities but do not necessarily serve a local need;
- Trail development popular in rural Colchester - Economy Trail, Trans Canada Trail, Cross Country ski trail potential?;
- Each year volunteer groups consider improvements to their park.
- Funds available from the Municipality can attract other matching funds and support in-kind efforts of local volunteers.