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**TO: INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT COMMITTEE**

**SUBJECT: ITEM FOR DISCUSSION - DEVELOPMENT OF DISC GOLF PLAN**

**WARD: ALL**

**PREPARED BY AND KEY CONTACT: K. BRADLEY, BA, MLA, MANAGER OF PARKS PLANNING, EXT. 4825**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPROVAL: M. BANFIELD, RPP, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER APPROVAL: M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

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The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide members of the Infrastructure and Community Investment Committee with information concerning the Item for Discussion – Development of Disc Golf Plan on the March 6, 2024 committee agenda as included below:

**Item for Discussion - DEVELOPMENT OF DISC GOLF PLAN**

That staff in the Parks Planning Branch investigate the feasibility of developing new disc golf infrastructure including on the City-owned land at Park Place and/or other City-owned properties with the related costing and include consultation with the broader disc golf community (e.g. the Barrie Disc Golf Club, etc.) and report back on the results of the investigation to General Committee. Sponsor: Councillor, J. Harris

In late 2023, staff and Councillor Harris engaged in initial discussions with local disc golf sport groups to collect preliminary information regarding the growth of the sport locally and the broader playing trends in the emerging sport. Additionally, in response to the 2026 forecasted closure of the existing Sandy Hollow Disc Golf Course that is required to construct new infrastructure on the disc golf course and surrounding Environmental Centre lands to support the City's landfill operations, the need for future disc golf course locations on City-owned lands were further discussed.

Staff support the need to undertake this recommended study when considering the proposed timing of the closure of the existing course. However, staff recommend that the City should not continue to undertake stand-alone studies on an individual sport by sport basis (e.g. pickleball, cricket, disc golf, etc.), but should consider advancing a Parks Strategic Plan that will provide community-driven, sustainable and city-wide direction for all aspects of the City's investment, service delivery and strategic initiatives guiding the future planning, design, acquisition, improvement, management, operations, programming and use of city parks, natural heritage lands, and open spaces.

The 2010 approved Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan no longer reflects the demographics, service levels, environmental priorities, land base, needs and demands of our growing and evolving community. The Parks Strategic Plan is currently forecast in the long-range capital plan to start in 2029 and would take a minimum of eighteen months to complete. Pending available funding, consideration should be given to advance the plan to start in 2025 to be completed in the current Council's term.

In order to proceed with the proposed disc golf study in 2024, Parks Planning would require the services of external consultants at an estimated cost of \$75,000. The scope of the disc golf study is comparable to the Outdoor Racquet Sport Strategy that is currently underway at a cost of \$80,000. The scope would include:

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- Current community profile and disc golf participation trends;
  - Community engagement strategy (identified interest-holders and broad community consultation);
  - Analysis of current regional and local disc golf course supply and utilization including benchmarking of disc golf service levels using comparator municipalities;
  - Review of current disc golf course design and maintenance service levels;
  - Review of comparator user rates and fees; and
  - Recommendations for service level targets, range of course designs based on best practices, and an implementation plan inclusive of capital and operating costs.

If the study and funding are approved to proceed, Parks Planning could commence the consultant selection process in June with a planned completion date and report back to committee prior to the end of the first quarter of 2025. The following amended wording for a motion is provided for consideration:

“That staff in the Parks Planning Branch be directed to undertake a study to investigate the feasibility, needs, and costs of developing new disc golf infrastructure on the City-owned land at Park Place and/or other City-owned properties that includes public and disc golf community consultation with the budget of \$75,000 for the study to be funded from the Reinvestment Reserve and a new project be added to the 2024 Capital Plan with a report back on the results of the investigation to the Infrastructure and Community Investment Committee”.

In the interim, staff will exercise the approved delegated authority to work with the Barrie Disc Golf Association to renew their User Agreement that expired in October 2023 with a new term that aligns with the proposed construction schedule for the landfill infrastructure improvements. In the case that the infrastructure project is delayed, staff have the authority to extend the term of the agreement to 2028.