

Town of Riverview

COUNCIL REPORT FORM



Presented to: Mayor and Town Council

Presented by: Parks, Recreation, Facilities and Community Relations

Date: March 21, 2023

Subject: Mill Creek Nature Park Masterplan 2023

BACKGROUND

Mill Creek Nature Park is a flourishing 330-acre (134 hectares) nature park located in the Town of Riverview. Riverview residents have embraced Mill Creek Nature Park as a year-round destination to be active, socialize, relax, and connect with nature. The park serves the 20,654 residents of Riverview, with residents from the surrounding communities of Moncton and Dieppe also visiting the park on a daily, weekly and monthly basis.

A 2013 Mill Creek Nature Park Master Plan laid the foundational groundwork for today's nature park, defining the role of the park, strategies that ensure protection from adjacent development, and a series of projects that expanded the role of passive park enjoyment.

The Town of Riverview awarded a Request for Proposal (RFP) on March 28, 2022 to engage the services of a firm to create a redeveloped masterplan. The updated plan is intended to act as a guide for future park development, associated programming and services to ensure the Town continues to provide residents with high quality services, support the community's growth and foster an appreciation of the natural environment.

Attached to this report for Council's review, is the completed 2023 Mill Creek Masterplan divided into the following content areas:

Context

- The Contemporary Mill Creek Nature Park
- Recreation And Nature Parks
- Previous Works
- Big Ideas From Previous Studies

Consultations And Master Plan Concepts

- Consultation Process And Strategy
- Big Statements For The Park

Strategic Vision And Directions

- Sustainable Platform
- Stormwater Management
- User Experience Improvements
- Evolving Mill Creek Nature Park

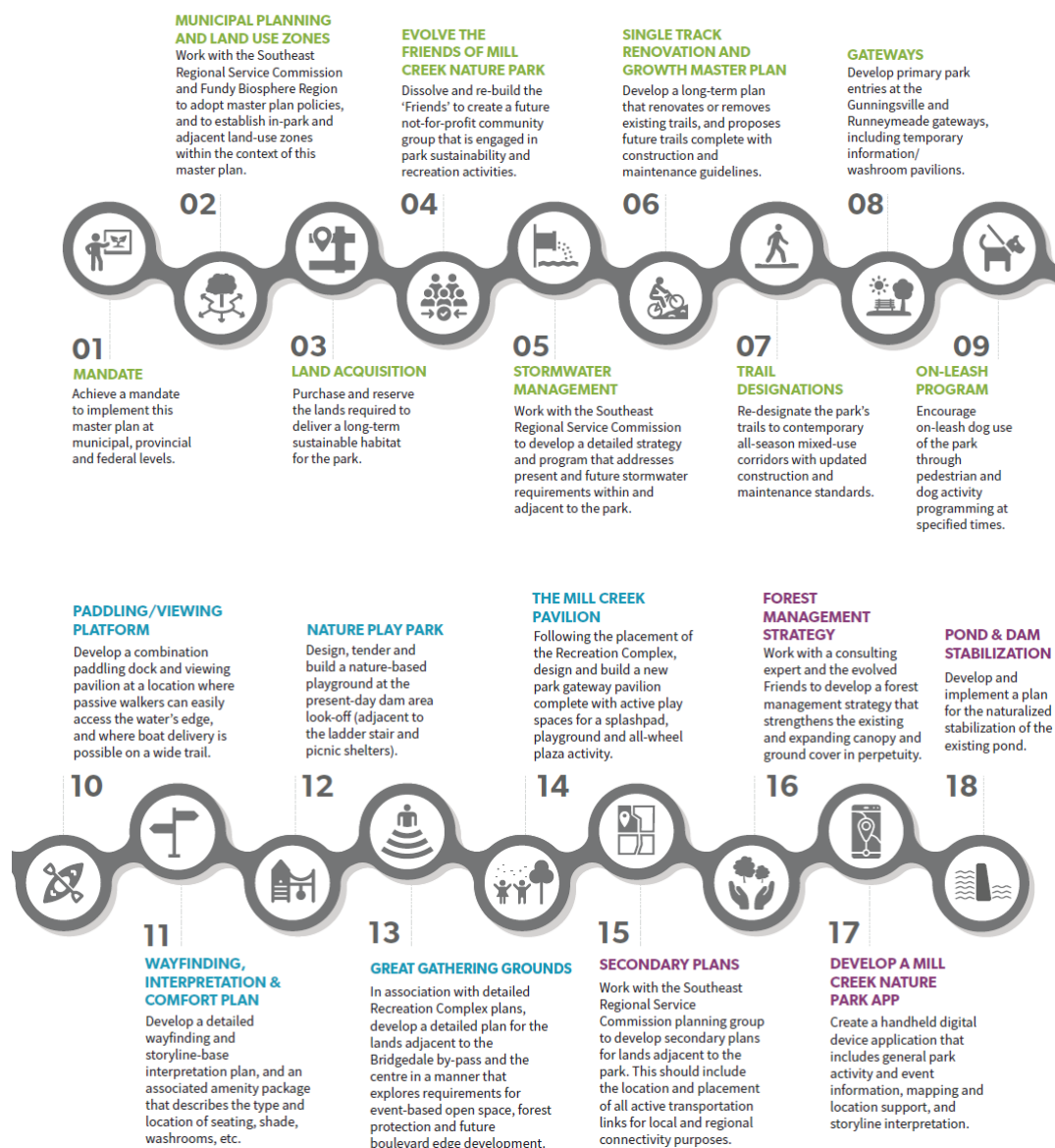
Implementation Plan

- Strategy And Roadmap
- Stabilization Projects
- Positioning Projects
- Evolutionary Projects
- Implementation Policy

After significant community consultation, the following vision statement was developed to guide future park developments and projects in the future. It is intended to support both the park's active use, while respecting the need for protection of the natural environment.

With interconnected forest spaces and aquatic environments, Mill Creek Nature Park maintains and protects the functional integrity of its ecosystems and the prominent natural features that define its landscape character. It is the “green heart” of Riverview, providing habitat for wildlife, active and passive recreational opportunities and access to nature for residents and visitors, and a place where the natural and cultural heritage is recognized and celebrated.

Figure 8 of the plan recommends various projects to stabilize, position and evolve the Mill Creek Nature Park and is intended to serve as a roadmap for the next fifteen years, or as resources permit.



CONSIDERATIONS

Legal: N/A

Financial: Financial implementation plan and budget implications will be brought before Council at the next long range capital planning session.

Policy: Plan outlines various recommendations related to establishing and advisory committee and incorporate land planning into the next municipal plan process.

Stakeholders: Council, Town of Riverview Staff, Residents, Friends of Mill Creek Committee

Strategic Plan: The masterplan aligns to a number of objectives identified in the 2021-2026 plan, including *Sustainable Asset Management* and *Healthy Community* which direct the Park's continued development.

Interdepartmental Consultation: N/A

Communication Plan: Completed plan will be updated on the Town's website.

RECOMMENDATION FROM STAFF

The Department of Parks, Recreation, Facilities & Community Relations recommends that Town Council adopt the 2023 Mill Creek Nature Park Masterplan as a guiding resource for the Mill Creek Nature Park's continued development.