



Subject:	Sho'arishon Park – Project Update
To:	Committee of the Whole – Community Services & Infrastructure
From:	Community Services

Report Number:	CS-01-25
Wards Affected:	All
Date to Committee:	February 10, 2025
Date to Council:	March 3, 2025

Recommendation:

That Committee receive and file Report CS-01-25 regarding Sho'arishon Park – Project Update.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide Committee with an update on Sho'arishon Park, including the additional grant funding, tender results and the construction timeline.

Background:

In April 2022, Committee approved the park concept design (Appendix A) presented by the collaborative partnership duo Two Row Architects and adesso design inc., which was greatly informed through Indigenous consultation with the Niagara Regional Native Centre and Plenty Canada. Once completed, the park will highlight, reflect and celebrate historical and contemporary Indigenous culture and will include the following:

- Interpretive storytelling signage and public art (*Two Row Helix* by David Beyer and Lilly Otasevic, *Water Scroll* by Kathryn Corbiere and Sophie-Ann Edwards)
- A native species rain garden with educational signage
- Rest and comfort areas including permanent shade and table seating
- Elements to support active transportation including pathways, enhanced trail connections, bicycle parking and repair station
- Architectural features including a palisade and longhouse
- Water connection for anticipated seasonal water bottle refill station
- Trees, plantings and new park signage; and
- Garbage and recycling receptacles, as well as convenience power (hydro)

On January 17, 2024, staff issued RFT 2024014CS - *Construction of Sho'arishon Park*. Received submissions exceeded the available construction budget and the project was put on hold while staff sought additional grant funding to address budget shortfalls.

Between February 2024 and August 2024, staff pursued several grant opportunities through other levels of government and external agencies. The team ultimately secured an additional \$542,962 through the Government of Canada, Niagara Region and the Niagara Community Foundation.

Staff have also been working directly with the Region to cost share the park development as part of the Twenty Mile Creek Arch Bridge Replacement Project in order to realize better pricing through economies of scale.

Report:

On October 4, 2024, The Niagara Region issued RFT 2024-T-195, which included the Sho'arishon Park specifications, and submissions were accepted until closing on November 7, 2024. In total, six submissions were received and accepted by the Region with the lowest compliant bidder being Urban Link Civil Ltd. On December 12, 2024, Regional Council approved Regional Report PW 37-2024 (attached as Appendix B) to award the contract including the Town's portion of \$435,052 (excluding HST). The Region is also contributing a substantial amount to support paving the parking lot and planting trees.

It is anticipated that park works will begin in April 2025 with a completion target of September 2025. A grand opening will take place thereafter.

Financial, Legal, Staff Considerations:

Financial:

Funding from upper levels of government and external agencies represent a remarkable 84% of the total project budget with the Town's contribution being \$185,000. Funders include:

Funder	Funding Program	Total
Government of Canada	Fed Dev for Southern Ontario Tourism Growth Program* Fed Dev for Southern Ontario Tourism Relief Fund (in partnership with Plenty Canada) Department of Canadian Heritage Legacy Fund: Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage	\$594,540
Greenbelt Foundation	Greenbelt Resilient Fund	\$15,000
Niagara Community Foundation	David S. Howes Fund* Environmental Grant	\$45,462
Niagara Region	Public Realm Investment Program (2024)*	\$180,500

	Public Realm Investment Program (2020)	
Total External Funding		\$835,502

**New funding in 2024*

Staffing:

A staff team comprised of the Director, Strategic Initiatives & Community Development, Manager, Public and Open Spaces, Landscape Architect, as well as the Acting Curator of Education, Visitor Engagement and Partnerships and Curator of Collections and Exhibitions continue to move this important project forward.

Legal:

Staff engage with legal counsel as required.

Public Engagement Matters:

N/A

Conclusion:

This collaborative project is of cultural significance for the Town of Lincoln, its residents and Indigenous people with ties to the Niagara area, because it is an important step in the process of reconciliation. The site and its proximity to water and fertile agricultural land was long the location of human settlement. To date, there have not been any public place-making projects that recognize Lincoln as the traditional territory of Indigenous Peoples before the arrival of European settlers. Once completed, Sho'arishon Park will commemorate and recognize Indigenous connections to the land, particularly that of the Neutral Nation, within current-day Lincoln.

Aligning to the strategic priority of connecting all of Lincoln - people, places and natural landscapes, Sho'arishon Park project is an example of the Town's commitment to intentionally and strategically build and create exceptional public places and amenities, whilst preserving natural landscapes and recognizing cultural heritage.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon McKay, BA, PMP
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Appendices:

Appendix A Sho'arishon Park Concept Plan

Appendix B Regional Report PW 37-2024 Award of Contract 2024-T-195 Regional Road
81 King Street Replacement of Twenty Mile Creek Arch Bridge (Structure
081210) in the Town of Lincoln

Report Approval:

Report has been reviewed and approved by the Director of Strategic Initiatives and Community Development and the Director of Finance/Treasurer. Final approval is by the Chief Administrative Officer.