

**To: David Creery, Chief Administrative Officer**

**From: Brian Connors, Director of Parks & Recreation**

**Re: Revised Recreational Water Needs Assessment / Aquatic Study**

---

### **AIM**

To obtain direction from Council regarding the revision to the 2019 Recreation Water Needs Assessment / Aquatic Study as well as changes to the capital plan.

### **BACKGROUND**

In December 2019 Council approved, in principle, the following direction for future aquatic expansion within the City of Woodstock.

*That Woodstock City Council establish a preference to replace Lions Pool with a new outdoor pool beside Southside Aquatic Centre, in principle.*

*That Woodstock City Council establish a preference to replace Southside Wading pool with a new splash pad, in principle.*

*And further that staff be directed to include all projects in the 5 year Capital Budget 2021-2026*

This direction was in keeping with the 2015 Recreational Facility Needs Assessment Study and was the plan that staff has been working towards.

The aquatic plan had the building of a splash pad at Southside Park in 2023 (AQU00022 New Splash Pad Design & Build \$908,000) and the retirement of the Southside wading pool in 2024 along with further community changeroom expansion to Southside Aquatic Centre (AQU00015 Change Room/ Facility Expansion \$1,500,000). In 2025 the capital budget plan has the building of an outdoor pool on the site where the current wading pool now resides (AQ00023 Outdoor Pool Design & Build \$5,000,000).

### **COMMENTS**

Within the last several months two factors have come forth that have made staff reassess the current Aquatic plan and would now make two recommended changes to this plan. This would have significant changes regarding the splash pad and outdoor pool.

The first recommended change involves the location of the splash pad. The original location of this splash pad was between the Southside playground and the ball diamond. The reason for the change in location is due to a negative engineering report from *SPH Engineering* involving construction and operation hurdles surrounding this site with regards to flooding and the non-ideal soil condition. Due to the engineering report and the added risk mitigation costs, this results in altering the previous recommendation.

The preferred site location would be to use half of the upper complex soccer field. This site as well as several other sites within Southside Park and around the city were considered. This site was chosen to be most optimal because of its proximity to the original wading pool, availability of parking, as well as washrooms and access to water and hydro. It will also not have large detrimental effects on soccer as the other half of the field can be used for younger players and there is a current surplus of soccer fields within the city. Staff will initiate a consultation with neighbouring property owners, the sport field users and the WRAC before confirming this as the final location for the new water park.

The other recommended change to the Aquatic Plan involves the elimination of the 2025 capital funding for an Outdoor Pool Design & Build for \$5,000,000 (debenture financing). If Council sees fit to go forward with a rehabilitation and renewal of Lions pool, it makes fiscal sense to hold off on this outdoor pool build for several more years as the investment in Lions pool can bring about additional years of service.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That Woodstock City Council approve in principle the revised future aquatic plan,

That Woodstock City Council approves the new location of the 2023 splash pad build to half of the upper complex soccer field in principle and directs staff to undertake stakeholder consultation for this location and report back to Council with the results,

That Woodstock City Council approves the removal of 2025 Capital plan AQ00023 Outdoor Pool Design & Build of \$5,000,000.

*Authored by: Brian Connors, Director of Parks and Recreation*

*Approved by: David Creery, M.B.A., P.Eng., Chief Administrative Officer*