

2018 Centre Region Parks & Recreation Authority Priorities

During 2017, the General Forum unanimously agreed to ask COG Committees, Boards and Authorities that receive their funding through the COG to consider and provide comments on the following five questions. This dialogue was to be led by the elected officials. The comments received from these groups were to be forwarded to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee agreed to the following process:

Refer the Committee/Authority/Board comments to the General Forum.

The municipalities identify questions that they may have regarding the Committee comments and bring those questions to the General Forum meeting. At these municipal meetings, the elected members of the respective Committee should help to respond to questions asked by their governing bodies.

The General Forum refers the questions to the appropriate Committee for a response.

The Committee considers the questions from the municipalities and prepares a response.

At the May General Forum meeting, the Authority Chair (or designee) will present the Authority's responses. The resulting discussion from the General Forum will help guide COG Staff when preparing the 2019 Program Plan.

1. The approved 2018 Work Plan combined with the CRPR Strategic Plan (2015-2020) accurately reflect the current and future priorities of the Authority Board.
2. Continue to (1) keep all parks and facilities well-maintained (clean, attractive, and safe) and enjoyable for visitors and (2) offer a full menu of recreation programs to residents of all ages.
3. 2018 priorities will depend on 2017 progress with respect to:
 - i. Resuming the process to construct Phase 1 of Whitehall Road Regional Park
 - ii. Continued improvements to the Centre Region Active Adult Center (facilities & programs).
 - iii. Based upon the operational successes at Oak Hall Regional Park and Hess Softball Field Complex, those features and improvements not built in Phase 1, along with the planned Phase 2 items should again be a priority, combined with the fundraising initiatives. For example, at Oak Hall, add the playground/sprayground, pavilions, lighting of Ballfield #1, dog park,

Tournament Building, etc. At Hess, proceed to finalize and implement the Phase 2 Master Plan

4. Focus on the continued improvement projects and the associated capital fundraising for Millbrook Marsh Nature Center. The Board endorsed a DCNR grant application which was targeted to build Phase 2 of the Spring Creek Education Building, which required a fundraising initiative to raise funds to match the 2017 state grant. The grant application and capital fundraising were postponed previously due to the other fundraising projects before the Board (Senior Center and Regional Park improvements). In addition, several other major projects are necessary at the Nature Center: the barn and Education Building should be restrained, the barn sprinkler system replaced, and the marsh boardwalk should be reset as a result of damages from several floods.
5. Based upon the framework provided in the Fundraising Feasibility Study, in 2017 the Board wishes to expand the focus on fundraising in order to supplement, not replace, the municipal investments for Parks & Rec projects across the region, including:
 - i. Corporate sponsorships, naming rights, capital vs. operational donations, non-traditional sources, recurring donations, community park funding, etc.
 - ii. Should the Board explore seeking the assistance of developing and working with a Park Partner group for future fundraising initiatives?

C. Does the Committee believe that there are services / projects that it may not be doing that it should be doing?

- The main factors that prevent addressing additional projects involve limited staff resources (given the many other projects underway) and funding.
- With the recent focus on addressing the shortage of facilities for sports and active recreation, the value of providing for passive park uses should remain a priority (for example, providing better maintenance of park paths and trails).
- While the Board is pleased with residents support for the recent activities that have become very popular locally (dog park, community gardens, pickleball), we also need the resources to stay on the cutting edge of newer activities, such as:
 - a. An updated skatepark, including following-up on developing an Action Park as proposed by Jamie Bestwick
 - b. Develop a Bicycle Pump Track as proposed by several local bicycle groups
 - c. Programming at the disc golf courses
 - d. Provide designated areas and educational programs for the proper use of drones and r/c aircraft