



Town of Arnprior Staff Report

Subject: Skate Park Procurement Strategy

Report Number: 25-03-24-03

Report Author and Position Title: Patrick Foley, Engineering Officer & Graeme Ivory, Director of Recreation

Department: Operations/Recreation

Meeting Date: March 24, 2025

Recommendations:

That Council approve the location of the new skatepark at 77 James Street on the vacant land adjacent to the entrance; and

That Council approve pre-committing the 2026 budget construction value of \$250,000 in addition to the already committed \$25,000 design budget, allowing for the procurement process (design-build) to proceed in 2025, with planned construction in 2026.

Background:

The existing skate park was established in 2002 and updated in 2012. When it was originally constructed, the Town chose to build a modular park which included features with a shorter lifespan, though less expensive and easily removable. The features are now all reaching the end of their useful lives.

In June 2023, the Arnprior Skateboard Association (ASA) presented a delegation to Council to present the merits of skateboarding as a sport and youth engagement vehicle as well as request commitment to fund a new and improved skatepark. Council approved \$25,000 for the design of a new/revitalized skatepark in 2024 with construction to occur in 2026 with a budget of \$250,000.

In March 2025, the Town of Arnprior applied to the Ontario Trillium Fund for \$200,000 in funding to support this project. The anticipated response time for this grant program is approximately 5 months.

The Recreation and Parks Master Plan has identified that the current skatepark location is not ideal and the nearby vacant parkland adjacent to the entrance of the Nick Smith Centre would be an optimal location. In the below image, the proposed location is outlined in orange and the current skatepark location is outlined in purple for reference.



This parkland is conveniently close to the Nick Smith Centre amenities including washrooms, water fountains and ample parking, as well as the soon-to-be-completed Fairview Park parkour structures and splashpad. This location meets many of the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategy including sight lines, natural surveillance and landscaping.

Discussion:

Approach

Through 2024 and into 2025, Staff have investigated skate park features and how these projects were implemented in other municipalities. Staff met with counterparts in Brant County to discuss their implementation of one new skate park in Burford, Ontario and an expansion of another skate park in Paris, Ontario. This was an interesting project to follow as the parks were implemented in different styles, in different communities while engaging separate community groups.

Discussions with users and industry professionals have indicated that skateboarders tend to prefer concrete features rather than modular features, largely due to smoother transitions and more interesting shapes.

In a typical park design, staff would be looking for feedback from the general public. Due to the niche nature of a skatepark with specific features that are only used by those who skateboard, BMX bike, scooter and rollerblade, it stands to reason that feedback from those groups should be sought out. This consultation approach was also employed in the design process for the arena revitalization project. In Arnprior, the most active user group is comprised of skateboarders.

The Arnprior Skateboard Association (ASA) has demonstrated a significantly sized user base of skateboard enthusiasts and learners that participate in the ASA's various programming organized over the past several years. This group has an executive board made up of

skateboarders and those that have children that are very interested in skateboarding. For these reasons, staff chose to engage directly with this group to establish preliminary requirements for the skatepark features.

Staff spoke with, and met with, members of the ASA several times over the course of the investigation phase of this project. Staff hosted a workshop with the ASA on March 6, 2025 and the following features were defined as being very important to them as experienced skateboarders:

- Hubba, handrail, stair set feature
- Hip
- Banks
- Manual pad

Pending Council approval, a Request for Proposal (RFP) will be issued listing minimum criteria to competitively evaluate specialized design-build contractors to find the best value for the Town.

Recommendation

Town staff are recommending that Council select the vacant Town parkland to the west of the entrance of the Nick Smith Centre at 77 James Street to be the home of the new and improved skatepark.

Town staff are recommending that Council pre-commit 2026 construction funds of \$250,000 so that this project can proceed with the procurement process in 2025, allowing for construction in 2026 under a design-build contract.

Options:

Council may choose to direct staff to investigate an alternative location or employ a different strategy to complete this project.

Policy Considerations:

This project will be tendered in accordance with the Town of Arnprior's Procurement Policy.

Financial Considerations:

As part of the 2024 capital budget, Council approved the design for a renewed skateboard park at a cost of \$25,000 and the current Council approved Long-Range Capital Forecast includes a budget of \$250,000 for the construction of the new skatepark in 2026. Staff are requesting for Council to pre-commit these funds in 2025, to allow for the RFP process to proceed for this scope of work under a design-build contract. The total budget for this design-build project would be \$275,000.

Staff have applied to the Ontario Trillium Fund and will continue to investigate applicable grants to offset and contribute to the costs of this project.

Meeting Dates:

- June 12, 2023 - Arnprior Skateboard Association Delegation to Council

Consultation:

- Arnprior Skateboard Association
- County of Brant (regarding Paris & Burford Skate Parks)
- Various Skateboard Park Designers & Vendors

Documents:

N/A

Signatures

Reviewed by Department Head: John Steckly

Reviewed by General Manager, Client Services/Treasurer: Jennifer Morawiec

CAO Concurrence: Robin Paquette

Workflow Certified by Town Clerk: Kaila Zamojski