

Municipality of Chatham-Kent
Infrastructure and Engineering Services
Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Deborah Veccia
Supervisor Chatham Parks & Horticulture

Date: December 8, 2021

Subject: Multi-Use Pump Track Proposal – Community of Chatham

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Fundraising by the Chatham Off-Road Biking Association (CORBA) Committee for the potential development of a pump track located at 435 Grand Avenue in Chatham be supported.
2. The local community be consulted on any impacts to the neighbourhood area as a result of the possible development.
3. Full costing, partnerships and potential budget impacts be confirmed and brought back to Council for further review.

Comments

Early in 2020, a request was received from the Chatham Off Road Biking Association (CORBA) Committee to see if it would be possible to develop a multi-use pump track in the Community of Chatham. This development would give youth a new opportunity to explore their skills and stay active.

A pump track is a circuit of rollers, banked turns, and features designed to be ridden completely by riders "pumping," generating momentum by up and down body movements instead of pedaling or pushing. It was originally designed for the mountain bike and BMX scene, and now, due to concrete and asphalt constructions, is also used by skateboarders, and fully accessible to wheelchairs. Pump tracks are relatively simple to use, reasonable to construct, and cater to a wide variety of rider skill levels.

Types of pump tracks include:

- Tracks made solely out of dirt, more designed for BMX riders.
- Asphalt for all types of disciplines such as BMX, scooters, regular bikes, wheelchairs, etc.

Most pump tracks link a series of rollers to steep berm corners that bring the riders back around. In the past they were built mostly out of dirt but recently companies have started to use concrete or asphalt. Paved pump tracks have the advantage that they can be ridden by skateboarders, in-line skaters, and foot-powered scooters and thus are not just single use facilities.



Below is an example of what a multi-use pump track would look like. In this case it is attached to the skateboard park but the CORBA Committee has not yet decided if this would be the case.



There are several community benefits of installing a pump track:

1. The community gets a valuable asset at a reasonable cost.
2. All ages and skill levels can learn in the same location.

Although the track was built by those who already had enthusiasm for cycling, many of those who use the track are just beginning. With a focus on developing technical mountain biking skills in a small amount of space, pump tracks are not too intimidating for a beginner or too easy for a professional rider. Cyclists of all ages and skill levels can ride the pump track every day.

3. Pump tracks create a fun and positive atmosphere.

Children can gather and socialize outdoors. Young adults can challenge themselves and stay active after school and get a few laps in before dark. Overall, people come together to enjoy the simple sport of cycling and in doing so create a unique social setting for building friendships and new acquaintances.

4. Many people can use a pump track without disturbing the neighbours.

Two types of noises are emitted from a pump track; bikes and voices. Tires rolling on asphalt create a surprisingly low level of noise due to smooth tires. Complaints about noise at the existing skateboard park is nonexistent due to the prime location.

5. The community gets a valuable asset without emitting a lot of pollution.

Most of the users will ride their bikes to the park instead of driving a car resulting in elimination and reduction of carbon emissions. It also creates another recreational amenity to support people moving to our community.

Several other communities nearby that have recently built pump tracks include:

- Windsor – July 2021
- Malihide – Summer 2021
- Stratford – 2019
- Tillsonburg – 2016
- Uxbridge – 2019
- London – (Pending)

Windsor, Malihide & Stratford have been consulted and all suggest that the addition of the pump track has drawn all ages and the use has been overwhelmingly successful.

Site Locations

A committee of volunteers was formed to explore the possible site locations and types of pump tracks available. Several site locations were reviewed, and the preferred site location is at 435 Grand Avenue in Chatham, behind the existing skateboard park.

The proposed site location is preferred as it supports the following necessary amenities required for the development of a recreational opportunity to include:

- Good sight lines for safety.
- Access to parking.
- Close to washroom facilities.

The site also offers close proximity to the YMCA and could support youth recreational opportunities. It is located close to the existing skateboard park which has been enormously popular for children and young adults of all ages to enjoy.

The idea of an asphalt track would minimize the heavy maintenance on a dirt track and allow for scooters, skateboarders, and wheelchairs to be able to use the track.

Even though the location is not immediately adjacent to homes, it is recommended that a local community survey be completed to solicit feedback on the project.

Appendix A shows the proposed location of a new pump track which is on the north side of the existing skateboard park.

Next Steps

If the concept is approved by Council, the CORBA Committee would like to seek funding from grants, donations, and sponsorships to raise the necessary funding required to build the facility.

Additionally, a local community survey will be completed to address any concerns or support neighbours may have.

Once the fundraising goal is met, the final design and community feedback will be brought back for Council's approval.

Areas of Strategic Focus and Critical Success Factors

The recommendations in this report support the following areas of strategic focus:

- ☐ Economic Prosperity:
Chatham-Kent is an innovative and thriving community with a diversified economy
- ☒ A Healthy and Safe Community:
Chatham-Kent is a healthy and safe community with sustainable population growth
- ☐ People and Culture:
Chatham-Kent is recognized as a culturally vibrant, dynamic, and creative community
- ☐ Environmental Sustainability:

Chatham-Kent is a community that is environmentally sustainable and promotes stewardship of our natural resources

The recommendations in this report support the following critical success factors:

- ☒ **Financial Sustainability:**
The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is financially sustainable
- ☐ **Open, Transparent and Effective Governance:**
The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is open, transparent and effectively governed with efficient and bold, visionary leadership
- ☐ **Has the potential to support all areas of strategic focus & critical success factors**
- ☒ **Neutral issues (does not support negatively or positively)**

Consultation

The adjacent property owners will be consulted before the project is built to determine any impacts to the immediate neighbourhood and if so, the design be modified to support the neighbourhood concerns.

The Supervisor of Cemetery Operations has been consulted and has no concerns regarding the proposed site.

The Director of Chatham Kent Public Health has been consulted and supports the concept and sees value in the additional recreational amenity for youth to enjoy. In addition, the proposed project would help to encourage healthy, active living by enhancing the diversity of free and affordable outdoor recreational opportunities available for children and families within Chatham-Kent.

Financial Implications

The estimated cost to install the project totals \$120,000 which will be raised by the CORBA committee. There will be budget funding required for routine maintenance at \$2,940 annually and lifecycle costs of \$10,556 annually. The annual maintenance cost is broken down into two categories, garbage disposal at a cost of \$1,500 and a portable washroom to support the facility at a cost of \$1,440 annually. The track's lifecycle is estimated at approximately 15 years for replacement of the asphalt surface and will amount to an annual cost of \$10,556.

Project Costs

Item	Amount
Capital construction of pump track	\$120,000
Total Construction Costs	\$120,000
Funding through grants secured by CORBA and in kind work	(\$120,000)
Net Costs	\$0

Annual Incremental Costs

Item	Amount
Operating costs	\$ 2,940
Lifecycle	\$10,556
Total Municipal Annual Costs	\$13,496

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Attachments: Appendix A: Draft Location of Pump Track – 435 Grand Ave West in
Chatham

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Proposal – Community of Chatham.docx

Appendix A - Draft Location of Pump Track – 435 Grand Avenue West in Chatham

