



**TOWN OF MINTO**

**MEETING DATE:** March 5, 2024  
**REPORT TO:** Mayor and Council  
**SERVICE AREA:** Community Services  
**SUBJECT:** CS 2024-002 – Harriston Fairgrounds Plan

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

THAT Council of the Town of Minto receives report CS 2024-002 regarding the Harriston Fairgrounds Plan; and

THAT Council of the Town of Minto accepts the concept in principal and plan as information.

**BACKGROUND:**

In February 2023, Interim CAO Chris Harrow reported to Council that a service club was interested in helping enhance the grounds of the Harriston Arena, including the construction of a sports pad.

Prior to this report, there have been internal discussions dating back to 2018, about the use of the area that was the former trailer park, including the construction of a sports pad.

The creation of a Harriston Fairgrounds Plan that encompasses the entire property was proposed and the President of the Harriston Kinsmen Club was present at Council to show the Club's support for such a plan.

**COMMENTS:**

In March of 2023, a working group was created consisting of representation from:

- Harriston Kinsmen Club
- Harriston & District Horticultural Society
- Harriston-Minto Agricultural Society
- Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
- Town of Minto - Community Services
- Town of Minto - Public Works and Water
- Town of Minto - Town Landscape Care

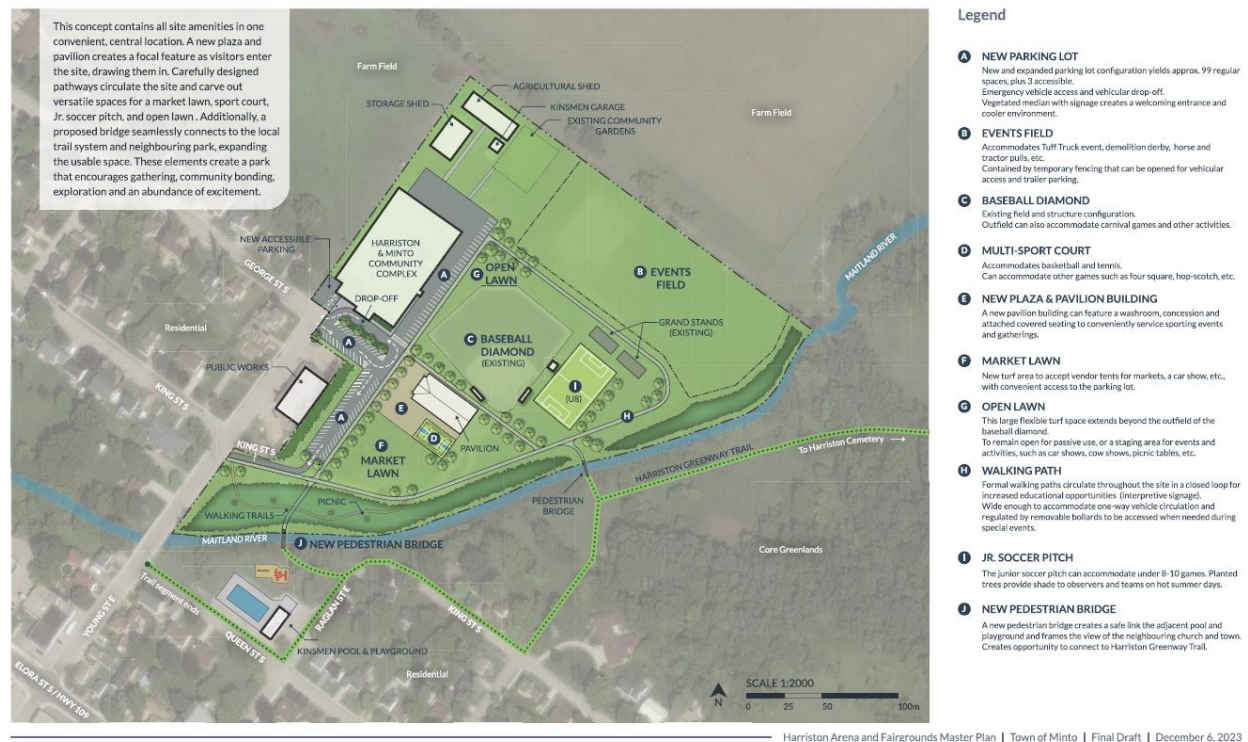
SKA-pl.ural consultants were tasked with creating different concepts based on the feedback from the working group during the spring and summer of 2023. The Preferred concept emerged as the top choice of the working group as it incorporated elements of first 3 concepts that were initially presented.

The Preferred concept allows for the implementation of the plan to happen over an indefinite period. The installation of a new sports pad, soccer pitch, and walking path are at the top of the list with a completion date goal of 2024. The construction of a new pavilion and reconfiguration of the parking lot will take time to happen. There will be some site preparation work required to move forward including:

- a drainage plan and minor regrading of the area near the pavilion
- removal of the trees near the pavilion for which other trees will be planted elsewhere
- the removal and decommissioning of some, but not all, utilities near the pavilion

## Concept 4 - Preferred

pl.ural



Another suggestion that arose out of the meetings of the working group was the decommissioning of the dump station on site, due to overland water concerns.

Representation from the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority proved to be beneficial as parts of the grounds are in the floodway and flood fringe. The proposed plan ensures that no new construction takes place in areas that will impede water flow.

An Open House event held at the Harriston Arena on February 20<sup>th</sup> was well attended.

Some of the feedback and concerns from the attendees included:

- incorporating a pollinator garden
- memorial tree program continuation
- new tree plantings proximity to arena entrance

- new tree plantings proximity to drains and drain corridors
- soccer field proximity to ball diamond
- authorized vehicle use on the walking path
- decommissioning of dump station

To mitigate some of these concerns, Community Services staff will work with the Harriston & District Horticultural Society to explore a pollinator garden, and work with Town Landscape Care staff to carefully plan where trees will be planted to carry-on with the Commemorative Bench and Tree program and avoid drainage and winter maintenance issues (not all trees will be planted exactly as shown of the diagram).

Soccer pitch and ball diamond rentals can be coordinated to avoid booking conflicts and bollards can be placed at the entrance of the walking paths to only permit authorized vehicle use for certain events as required such as the Fall Fair.

Concerns were raised about the decommissioning of the dump station as there are quite a few residents that use this service. Staff will report back to Council at a future meeting with recommendations on timing and a communication strategy pertaining to the closure of the dump station.

There is significant potential in this plan to make these grounds a year-round attraction for residents and visitors of all ages. The installation of a new sports pad, soccer pitch, and walking path this year would be a great start.

### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:**

The 2021 capital budget for Community Services contained funds earmarked for a sports pad. These funds will be used to prepare the site and the Town will work with the Harriston Kinsmen Club to cover the remaining cost of the sports pad itself.

The Town will need to continue to work with community groups moving forward to make this plan a reality. Future capital budgeting will be required, and some items may need to be modified or removed from the plan if they are not practicable to complete.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN:**

#### **Goal 2: Quality of Life**

Provide a holistic quality of life which supports the mental, physical, and social health of our community.

#### **Goal 5: Responsible Government**

Deliver services in an open, accountable, and transparent manner while providing an outstanding working environment for our employees and community.

**PREPARED BY:** Matthew Lubbers, Director of Community Services

**RECOMMENDED BY:** Mark Potter, Interim Chief Administrative Officer