



Subject:	Jordan Hollow Indigenous Cultural Park – Project Update and Concept Design
To:	Committee of the Whole – Community Services & Infrastructure
From:	Community Services

Report Number:	CS-07-22
Wards Affected:	All
Date to Committee:	April 25, 2022
Date to Council:	May 2, 2022

Recommendation:

Receive and file report CS-07-22 regarding Jordan Hollow Indigenous Cultural Park – Project Update and Concept Design.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the park planning, design and development efforts for Jordan Hollow Indigenous Cultural Park including a review of the concept design.

Background:

Jordan Hollow Park is situated within the traditional territory of the Hattiwendaronk, the Haudenosaunee and the Anishinaabe. Located at the base of the Niagara Escarpment, it is in close proximity to a significant archaeological site showing evidence of multi-generational settlement by members of the Neutral Nation circa 1600. The park sits along King Street (Hwy #8) and connects to Jordan Village and the Lincoln Museum and Cultural Centre via a trail access point situated along the Twenty Mile Creek.

Currently, there are no public markers or acknowledgements regarding Indigenous history in Lincoln. For thousands of years this area has been a place of gathering, relationship building, harmony, balance, and commerce. The establishment of a park to commemorate Indigenous connections to the land within current-day Lincoln is an opportunity to highlight and reflect on this rich history and contribute to the celebration of historical and contemporary Indigenous culture.

This park enhancement project will align with the streetscaping and infrastructure improvements occurring in Jordan Village and will complement the investment in the Village as a cultural destination through the inclusion of public art, interpretive signage, and park features such as seating, a shade structure, plantings, and pathways.

At the outset of the project, Town staff gathered information and reviewed other park designs with a similar mission including Îᑭᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ (ÎNÎW) River Lot 11 Indigenous Art Park, Edmonton; Nogojiwanong and Millennium Park, Peterborough; and Awen Gathering Place, Collingwood. The Town then approached the [Niagara Regional Native Centre](#) (NRNC) and Tim Johnson for [Landscape of Nations 360° Incorporated](#) (LON360°) about the concept of a park development project that would see the inclusion of Indigenous public art within Jordan Hollow as a way to mark and recognize the Indigenous relationship to the land. The project concept was met with enthusiasm and a stakeholder group was established to guide the vision and direction of the project.

Initial conversations with the stakeholder group resulted in a request for an archaeological survey to be completed within the park. Archaeological Services Inc (ASI) and Indigenous Field Monitors from the Haudenosaunee Development Institute, Mississauga of the Credit First Nation, and Six Nations of the Grand River were engaged, and Stage 1 & 2 archaeological assessment was completed in September 2021. After careful survey work, ASI determined that there was no archaeology on the site, which was profoundly disturbed.

Report:

Design Process

The process of developing the park concept has been guided by the partnerships that the Town has established through this project. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was established between the Town of Lincoln and LON360°, that advanced the participation of Tim Johnson, who has been instrumental in the recent development of four masterworks of public art in the Niagara Region and who remains active in developing “Legacy Spaces” that serve to bring Indigenous history alive. A former Smithsonian Institution executive who directed exhibitions and programs at the National Museum of the American Indian, his expertise and guidance placed a conceptual Indigenous lens on the project, which has ultimately defined the direction and scope of the park.

This project will add to the growing complement of arts, culture and heritage offerings in the Town of Lincoln. This park will form part of Lincoln’s ‘Cultural Corridor’ and will connect to the Museum and Cultural Centre by road and eventually by hiking trail (located less than 1km from each other). The relationship between the Museum and the Jordan Hollow Indigenous Cultural Park will strengthen Lincoln’s cultural offerings and will situate Jordan as a cultural destination within the region. The collaboration with the NRNC, Tim Johnson, and LON360° will ensure that the park is used regularly by Indigenous community members for a variety of activities, including programming, celebrations and gatherings.

It is a well-accepted principle of urban design that public art enriches communities by enhancing quality of life for residents and visitors. Public art also plays an important role in contributing to local economies, particularly as a cultural tourism asset. It is anticipated that the park will function as both a landmark and gathering space. Jordan Hollow Indigenous Cultural Park will be transformed by public art. The park will act as a stage where visitors will be connected through interactive experiences. Site specific installations will animate the park and provide a platform for Indigenous voices of the past, present, and future.

The final design concept (Appendix A) incorporates the following elements:

- A rain garden including native plant species, educational signage and monitoring well;
- Rest and comfort areas including permanent shade and table seating;
- Berms for a dynamic landscape and natural amphitheatre for performances and gatherings;
- Elements to support active transportation including new pathways, an enhanced Bruce Trail connection, future trail connection opportunities, bicycle parking and repair station;
- Trees, plantings and new park signage
- Garbage and recycling receptacles;
- Architectural features inspired by cultural forms including a palisade and longhouse; and
- Interpretive storytelling signage and evolving art installations opportunities including rock podiums.

Call for Artists and Designers

In November 2021, the Town issued a Request for Proposal to Indigenous Artists and/or collaborative design teams to create a park concept design that would include public art, landscape elements, and interpretive signage. A jury, comprised primarily of Indigenous curatorial and academic professionals: Dr. Robyn Bourgeois, Associate Professor, Women's and Gender Studies, Brock University, and Acting Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement; Tim Johnson, former Director of Exhibitions, Smithsonian Institution; and Janis Monture, Executive Director, Woodland Cultural Centre, was responsible for selecting the final concept design in January 2022. The Town received three proposals and after an extensive evaluation based on the artists' experience, previous work and the concept's ability to meet project requirements with creativity, the selected artist team is Adesso Design Inc. and Two Row Architect, who have together worked on a number of projects throughout southern Ontario.

Established in 2008, Adesso Design Inc. (Adesso) is a full-service landscape architectural firm based in Hamilton with projects ranging from small scale residential to large scale master planned communities. They believe that the success of any project relies on teamwork and good communication. Adesso has aligned itself with a strong network of consultants with similar principles and a commitment to innovative design.

Since its inception in 1992, Two Row Architect (TRA) has focused on providing services to projects for Indigenous clients as well as those that incorporate Indigenous cultural ideologies and teachings manifested in architectural form. Over the last 27 years, TRA has worked with the majority of Indigenous Groups throughout Ontario on multiple projects and has also worked with multiple universities and colleges throughout the province. TRA takes great pride in their Indigenous heritage as four of their employees are of Indigenous descent. TRA will assist in promoting an architectural approach that realizes the meshing of local traditional knowledge (Indigenous arts/crafts/design) with current building technology. They also promote the creative and environmentally conscious use of building materials, and maximum Indigenous involvement to benefit local communities. TRA's office is located on the Six Nations of the Grand River territory.

Climate Change & Green Infrastructure Opportunities

The development of Jordan Hollow Indigenous Cultural Park includes the installation of the Town's first rain garden. A rain garden is a garden of native shrubs, perennials, and flowers planted in a small depression, designed to temporarily hold and soak in rainwater. Rain gardens and the use of native plant species are key adaptation and mitigation measures to manage stormwater runoff quantity and quality in periods of both high precipitation and drought. Rain gardens also create excellent habitat for birds and butterflies.

The rain garden contributes to the Town's climate adaptation goals through: ensuring drought tolerant, diverse, and native plantings in new developments; strengthening community tree and garden planting networks; advancing the installation, piloting, and education of green infrastructure/low-impact development (GI/LID) throughout the Town; and mitigating the impacts of climate change and extreme weather.

Jordan Hollow Indigenous Cultural Park integrates social, environmental, and financial resilience initiatives to advance active transportation, community health equity and safety, economic growth, and climate change action. Lessons learned from the implementation, performance monitoring, and maintenance of this inaugural rain garden along with the pilot projects across the Town will be applied to future GI/LID designs and installations.

Critical Path and Next Steps

Town staff continue to work with external stakeholders to ensure project success moving forward, including Niagara Region and Ontario Heritage Trust with respect to critical roadway infrastructure and trail enhancement projects. Staff anticipate that detailed design can be completed for the park project in 2022 and will include consultation with the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee. While it was staff's intention to have this project completed in 2023, with the Twenty Mile Creek Arch Bridge Replacement Project scheduled for completion in 2024 and the requirement for use of the park as a laydown area to mitigate impact to vehicular traffic on King Street (Hwy. 8), construction is now planned for 2024. A project information page on the Town's public engagement platform, [Speak Up Lincoln](#), is being updated regularly.

Financial, Legal, Staff Considerations:

Financial:

During the 2020 capital budget process, Council approved \$83,000 towards park enhancements at Jordan Hollow Park. Throughout 2020 and 2021, staff and project partners applications to regional, provincial, and national agencies to increase the overall project budget. Staff have secured funding through the Government of Canada, Niagara Region, Greenbelt Foundation, and Niagara Community Foundation. Currently, the budget is currently \$348,000 with external funding representing 80% of the total project budget. Staff continue to review funding opportunities to support this community project. Below outlines commitments made to-date, in order of receipt:

Funder	Funding Program	Amount	Extension Confirmed
Niagara Region	Public Realm Investment Program	\$83,000	Yes
Niagara Community Foundation	Environmental Grant	\$2,500	Yes
Greenbelt Foundation	Greenbelt Resilient Fund	\$15,000*	Yes
Department of Canadian Heritage	Legacy Fund: Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage	\$164,500	Yes
Total External Funding:		\$265,000	

*Funding must be spent by November 2023 on eligible project expenses.

Staffing:

A staff team comprised of the Associate Director, Recreation and Culture, Cultural Development Coordinator, Climate Change Coordinator and Landscape Architect continue to move this important project forward. This team reports into the larger Parkland Development Team on a regular basis.

Legal: N/A

Public Engagement Matters:

All communities have a role to play in recognizing the land that Indigenous Peoples previously lived on and in being inclusive of this population. Several recent national-level reports speak to the role that Canadians have in reconciling with Indigenous Peoples over past history. In turn, many recreation, parks and culture organizations are emphasizing the role that Indigenous Peoples have played in Canada's history through education, arts, sports, parks amenities and interpretation; meaningful local supports can only be determined through open discussions with local Indigenous Peoples and organizations.

This project is a positive example of community collaboration and partnership. At the outset of the project, a group comprised of members of the Indigenous community and environmental stakeholders were assembled to discuss the direction of the project, their

vision for the park, and suggestions for programming potential once the park was completed.

Key stakeholders in the project include Landscape of Nations 360° Incorporated, Niagara Regional Native Centre, Carolinian Coalition, Green Venture, Ontariogreen Conservation Association, Niagara Region, and other Indigenous stakeholders including an Elder and an Indigenous education advocate. This group has been instrumental in steering the direction of the project so that it best reflects the priorities and needs from the perspectives of their own communities and organizations: Landscape of Nations 360° Incorporated has provided guidance and direction in developing a project scope that reflects the Indigenous connections to the land, and specifically that of the Neutral Nation; Niagara Regional Native Centre have provided input related to future use of the site from a programming perspective, support with funding applications, ensuring that the Indigenous populations that they serve have a gathering place where they can teach and harvest traditional medicines; Ontariogreen, Carolinian Coalition and Green Venture have guided the Town on environmental issues.

Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan

As the Town plans for park development, the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan is always at the forefront, providing a framework for decision making. Re-development of this park meets the following 12 priority recommendations in the plan:

- Promote free and low fee activity options to ensure universal access across the community. This includes, but is not limited to, opportunities to enjoy outdoor settings and enhance connections with nature;
- Engage organizations and under-represented populations to better understand the barriers to accessing parks, recreation and cultural services and the actions required to better include them;
- Foster community partnerships to enhance the long-term stewardship and animation (e.g., programming, events, educational initiatives, etc.) of spaces.
- Providing permanent shade structures within new and redeveloped destination parks, sports parks and community parks, at a minimum;
- Ensuring the provision of age-friendly amenities such as washrooms, shade (e.g., tree planting in new parks, pavilions, etc.), benches/seating areas and bike racks in appropriate park types and along trails;
- Maintain a commitment to universal accessibility and safety within the Town's parks system through compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (including consultation with the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee), adherence to Integrated Accessibility Standards, contemporary design guidelines and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles;
- Engage stakeholders and the public when designing new and enhancing existing parks
- Continue to build relationships with local partners and provide capacity-building support to community organizations (in partnership with others in the region where applicable) to bolster availability of unique local arts, culture and heritage offerings;

- Animate public spaces and destinations through cultural offerings such as pop-up activities, community events, registered programs, guided tours or public art;
- Continue to invest in and focus municipal efforts on beautification and decoration of public spaces. This may include partnerships with environmental stewardship organizations;
- Continue to seek and apply for external funding to support investment in arts, culture and heritage through higher levels of government, private funds, or non-profit and charitable organizations; and
- Where appropriate and consistent with municipal policies and priorities, consider alternative funding and cost-sharing approaches to achieve capital and operating cost recovery levels, such as (but not limited to) surcharges, fundraising, grants, partnerships, sponsorships, etc.

Furthermore, the planning, development and completion of Jordan Hollow Indigenous Cultural Park directly aligns to and supports all of Council's Strategic Priorities (2019 – 2022) for a Future-Fit Lincoln. The specific priority objectives and initiatives are highlighted below:

Welcoming Community

- Improve social and economic inclusion by providing friendly and inclusive public spaces that are universally accessible, to facilitate citizen connections and foster vibrant communities.

Connected Community

- Expand cultural and community initiatives by optimizing the existing park networks to ensure residents have access to nature and healthy active lifestyles.

Vibrant Community

- Be an engaged community by enhancing citizen engagement and participation in identifying public service improvements to bring about greater transparency, accountability, and social inclusion, resulting in tangible improvements to peoples' lives.

Resilient Community

- Champion environmental stewardship and smart growth by continuing to build public awareness and understanding of our shared responsibility to conserve and protect the environment promote green and low environmental impact development strategies for both municipal and private sector projects.

Conclusion:

All Canadians and all levels of government have a role to play in reconciliation. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report's 94 Calls to Action are addressed primarily to the federal, provincial and territorial governments but also to municipal governments, the corporate sector and a broader Canadian society. They cover a wide range of government responsibilities, including education, commemoration, museums and archives, training for

public servants, and a number of specific initiatives related to reconciliation. Call to Action #79 identifies plans to commemorate the contributions of Indigenous People to Canada's history. This Call to Action is directed at the federal government, but municipal governments should also implement plans to commemorate history, build awareness, and support reconciliation.

This project holds particular significance to the residents of the Town of Lincoln, and Indigenous people with ties to the Niagara area, because it is an important step in the process of reconciliation. To date, there has not been any public place-making projects that recognize Lincoln as the traditional territory of Indigenous Peoples before the arrival of European settlers. The land that has been designated for this project, at the base of the Twenty Mile Creek in the Twenty Valley, has been a location of human settlement long prior to European arrival due to its proximity to water and fertile agricultural land. The Town of Lincoln is committed to reconciliation, and acknowledgment of this history through an innovative and collaborative project is one important step in the process.

Aligning to the strategic priority of connecting all of Lincoln—people, places, natural landscapes—the Jordan Hollow Indigenous Cultural Park project is an example of the Town's commitment to intentionally and strategically build and create exceptional public places and amenities, whilst preserving natural landscapes and recognizing cultural heritage.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendices:

Appendix A – Jordan Hollow Indigenous Cultural Park - Park Concept

Report Approval:

Report has been shared with the Niagara Regional Native Centre, Landscape of Nations 360° Incorporated and approved by the Director of Community Services. Final approval is by the Chief Administrative Officer.