

August 6, 2019

Mr. Curt Benson  
Director of Planning Services and Chief Planning Official  
Halton Region  
1151 Bronte Road  
Oakville, Ontario M7A 2J3

**RE: Regional Official Plan Update – Parkland Requirements**

Dear Mr. Benson:

I am writing to you to raise a matter that the Town of Halton Hills has been working on for a number of years related to the Town's future parkland needs.

The Town has been undertaking a Parkland Acquisition Study since 2015, which is intended to identify the Town's parkland needs to 2031. In May 2019, Council approved various recommendations related to Parkland Policies in and practices in the Town, as it related to the Parkland Acquisition Study.

The full report, along with appendices can be viewed at:

<https://pub-haltonhills.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=6421>

A key outcome of this study update was that it is likely that the Town will need to look outside of the current urban boundaries in order to acquire and construct suitable parkland to meet the community's needs into the future.

As part of the recommendations to Council the Town implemented various policies intended to allow maximum flexibility in dealing with parkland in existing urban intensification areas (i.e. strata parks, off-site dedication, etc.) however we still anticipate there will be a significant need for additional parkland generated by the growing population to 2031.

In total, it is expected that there will be deficit of 131.57 ha of land till 2031 even after Council's approval of the reduced parkland provision standard of 2.2ha per 1,000 persons. Based on the availability of developable tablelands in the existing Urban Areas, it is not practically feasible to obtain the size and quantity of parcel required for a major community/Town-wide park.

In addition to this, with recent changes to Provincial Policies related to parkland dedication being implemented through Bill 108, there is additional uncertainty as to the ability of the Town to acquire sufficient parkland within the urban area as part of the development approvals process. Parkland that is acquired through these processes

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may be at a lower rate than the current standards. This will further impact the Town's ability to collect sufficient parkland within the urban area.

To that end, we are requesting that the Region consider permitting public park uses in areas outside of the existing Urban Areas, in recognition of the scarcity and limitations of land within the existing urban areas. We understand that similar considerations may be required for school boards related to potential secondary school sites.

The Town would like to begin identifying/assessing potential park sites for acquisition, and consideration of this request will assist in that regard.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warren Harris". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Warren Harris, OALA, PMP  
Commissioner of Recreation and Parks  
Town of Halton Hills

cc:

Brent Marshall, CAO, Town of Halton Hills

John Linhardt, Commissioner of Planning and Sustainability, Town of Halton Hills

Kevin Okimi, Manager of Parks and Open Space, Town of Halton Hills