



Community Services *Staff Report*

REPORT NO: CS-2024-03

TO: Council

SUBMITTED BY: Chris Catania, Director of Community Services

PREPARED BY: Amber Schenck, Project Coordinator

REVIEWED BY: Sharon Chambers, CAO

DATE: January 15, 2024

SUBJECT: Nith River Promenade Project Completion

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report CS-2024-03, Nith River Promenade Project Completion be received for information.

SUMMARY:

This report provides a construction update to the substantial completion of the Council approved Nith River Promenade Project.

BACKGROUND:

The Nith River Promenade resides along the east bank of the Nith River, south of Huron Street between the New Hamburg Carnegie Library/Cenotaph and Kirkpatrick Park. This span of the river provides an ideal location for community members and visitors of Wilmot to gather for private and community-led events, utilize the river and surrounding parklands for recreational purposes, and offer picturesque pathways for pedestrians navigating the town center.

Though this span of the river is calm, peaceful, and inviting in warm, dry weather, the nature of the river fluctuates abruptly and considerably during high water events initiated by heavy and/or prolonged rainfall, and to a much greater extent, spring snowmelt events. Such

occurrences have increased in frequency and severity in the past decade, leading to irreparable damage to the riverbanks, Promenade, trail, light standards, retaining walls, trees, etc. prompting multiple resurfacing projects, lighting replacements, and bank remodeling initiatives to address and alleviate inflicted damages. While these efforts were not in vain, they provided only temporary solutions suggesting the promenade and trail required innovative design and construction strategies capable of withstanding these newly recurring high-water events. In response, Council approved report CS 2023-05, endorsing the commencement of the Nith River Promenade construction project on May 8, 2023, backed by grant funding for its execution.

REPORT:

In 2021, the Township of Wilmot received notifications from both the Rural Economic Development (RED) Grant and the Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF), confirming the approval of the applications to enhance the Nith River Promenade and Trail. Township staff conducted assessments of known problematic areas, engaging in discussions with residents, community organizations, and local business owners, to ensure deliverables of this project would be beneficial to all users and upon receiving feedback, promptly began the design and construction with the intention of project completion in fiscal 2023.

The Nith River Promenade project achieved a significant milestone in December 2023, marking its substantial completion. Though Wilmot trails are closed for the season, the removal of the construction hoarding, and temporary closed signage has restored regular operation to the Nith River Promenade and trail, Kirkpatrick Park trail connection, and rear parking lot of 121 Huron Street.

The construction for the Promenade and trail enhancements effectively showcases the Township's commitment to addressing erosion below the Promenade, stabilizing the riverbanks during high-water events, and reinstating the trail lighting using innovative materials and construction methods. These enhancements are evident in the establishment of two spacious gathering areas, replacement of the deteriorating trees and plantings, relocation of the electrical field panel and meter base, expansion of floodwater storage, implementing armor stone bank stabilization, widening both the Promenade and trail pathways, creating an accessible ramp connection, installing terra-seed in place of high-maintenance grass species, installation of resilient concrete light poles, and providing GFI receptacles at each upper and lower gathering spaces. This comprehensive approach not only satisfies grant applications and community requirements but also allows all downtown core visitors to enjoy panoramic views of three prominent New Hamburg landmarks—the New Hamburg Reservoir Dam, the New Hamburg Waterwheel, and the Hartman Bridge.

Staff will engage and advise Council of a planned grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony to take place in May 2024.

ALIGNMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT STRATEGIC PLAN:

- Quality Life through Accessibility and Inclusivity
- Economic Prosperity through Economic Development
- Environmental Protection through Sustainability
- Responsible Governance through Infrastructure Investments

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Council approved \$1,035,000 comprising of grant funding, infrastructure reserves and debt financing that included the required studies, permits, construction contract, consulting and contingency. The total projected committed/spent project budget is \$1,030,000. The table below details further the financial breakdown.

Project Funding Details	
Nith River Promenade project	Amount
Studies, Permits, Approvals	\$12,162
Consulting (Design)	\$65,000
Construction	\$857,555
Contingency	\$95,283
Total Approved Budget (Excluding Taxes)	\$1,035,000
Total Spent/Committed (Excluding Taxes)	\$1,030,000
Project Under/(Over) Budget	\$5,000

ATTACHMENTS:

Nith River Promenade & Trail Project Photos