

TOWN OF LAKESHORE
COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
RECREATION SERVICES

TO: Mayor and Members of Council
FROM: Truper McBride, Director of Community and Development Services
DATE: December 14th 2018
SUBJECT: Earth Day Celebration

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that:

1. That Council endorse the Earth Day Celebration program as laid out in this report and name the trail north of the ATC 'Earth Walk Trail'.

BACKGROUND:

Earth Day is an annual event celebrated on April 22nd around the world each year. Events are planned and organized to demonstrate support for environmental protection, restoration and humanity's role as a steward of the Earth.

The Town of Lakeshore has not had a formal Earth Day program in the past but there has been tree plantings that have taken place with the support of the Essex Regional Conservation Authority (ERCA). In 2018, Council expressed an interest in establishing a local tradition to focus Earth Day activities and have the Town take on a larger role.

The Town's Official Plan highlights the municipality's role in environmental stewardship, Section 2.3.6 of the Plan states that 'Lakeshore will ensure that our Town is natural inviting and environmentally aware' and identifies strategies for connecting natural areas with educational opportunities to enhance environmental awareness for our citizens. Section 5.0 of the Plan, Protecting Natural Assets, goes further and lays out specific policies to preserve, enhance and restore natural environmental assets. These policies collectively set out a theme for the Town to build upon for the celebration of Earth Day.

COMMENTS:

The Town has been collaborating with ERCA to develop a potential program for Earth Day in Lakeshore. As the Town of Lakeshore is known to be a leader in Essex County, staff have been working on developing a potential Earth Day program that will set

Lakeshore apart from other municipalities and create a lasting, distinct legacy, contributing to unique place-making design for the community.

A concept was developed to create learning gardens / feature areas along the newly paved trail north of the Atlas Tube Centre. The land surrounding this trail is currently a blank slate and a prime candidate for park and landscape development, especially given its prominent role as a connecting link to the ATC for pedestrians and cyclist from the rest of the community.

The Earth Day design concept (Appendix A) illustrates the proposed learning gardens and feature areas along the pathway that will provide opportunities for pedestrians and cyclists to rest along the corridor, and interact with trail features and the local community. Each year on Earth Day, a new learning garden or feature area design will be commissioned with tree planting occurring in the surrounding space. In 2019, the first learning garden would be created along the trail and a design is included for Council's consideration in Appendix A. Possible themes for future year's feature areas include, pollinator gardens, water quality, air quality, wind gardens, renewable energy, indigenous art/culture, time capsules. Appendix A also provides possible pathway feature areas design inspirations for future years. Over time, a vibrant, unique, community attraction will be created paying homage to our natural environment and the Earth with a restored native tree grove introduced throughout the corridor.

The Town is proposing to name this trail link 'Earth Walk Trail' to further recognize the Earth Day program should it receive Council support.

The Town has had initial conversations with the Belle River Horticultural Society and will work towards creating further community and corporate sponsorships in an effort to get additional materials and labour donated to support each year's learning garden or feature area development. The intent is to establish a new tradition for Lakeshore that the community can look forward to each year and reflect proudly upon in the future.

OTHERS CONSULTED:

Director of Engineering and Infrastructure Services
Director of Finance
Manager of Recreation Services

FINANCIAL IMPACTS:

An annual budget of \$7,500 to support this event and assist with material procurement has been proposed in the draft 2019 Town Budget for Council's consideration. Additional costs and labour will be addressed through sponsorships and volunteer efforts, depending on the success of these campaigns the \$7,500 seed money may be stretched to go a long ways.

Prepared by:


Truper McBride, MPlan, RPP, MCIP
Director of Community and
Development Services

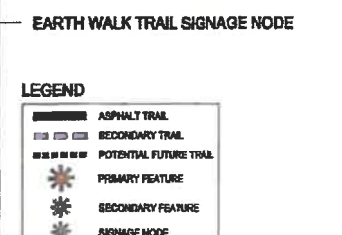
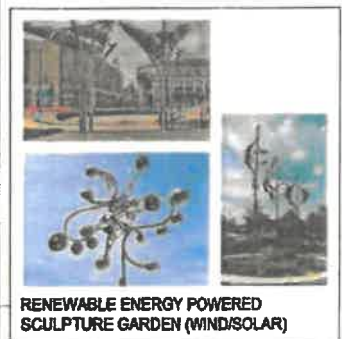
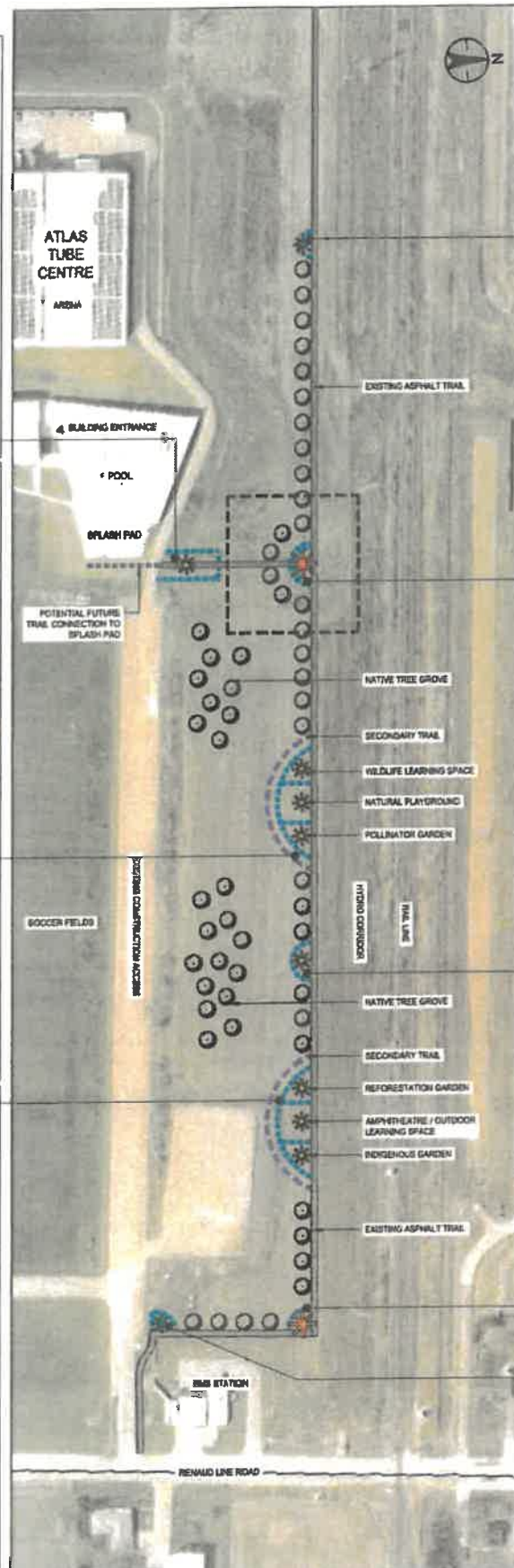
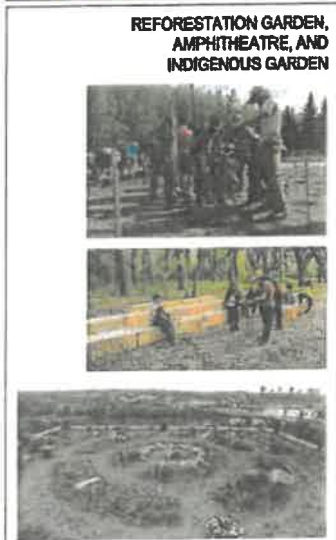
Reviewed and Submitted by:


Tom Touralias, P. Eng., MBA
Chief Administrative Officer

TM/tm

Attachment(s): Appendix A - Earth Walk Trail Design Concept

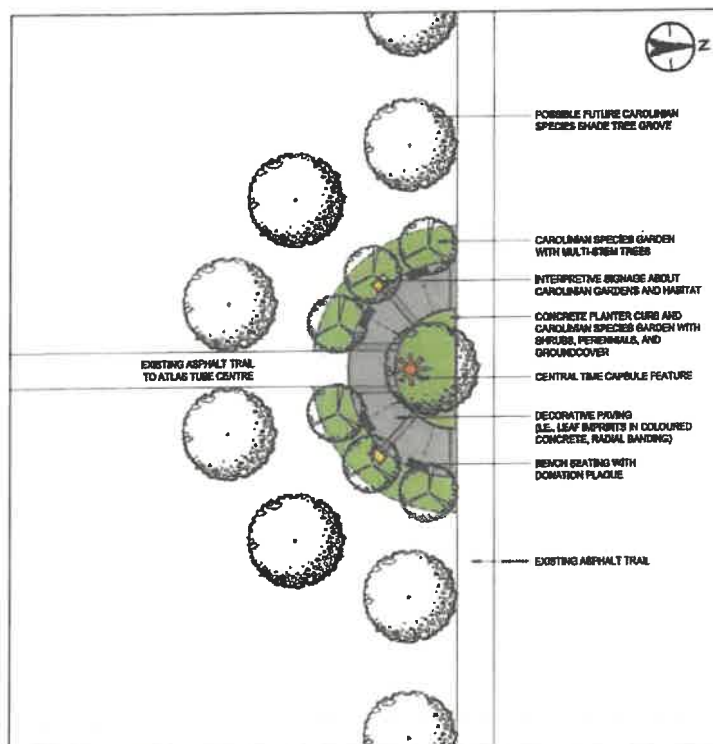
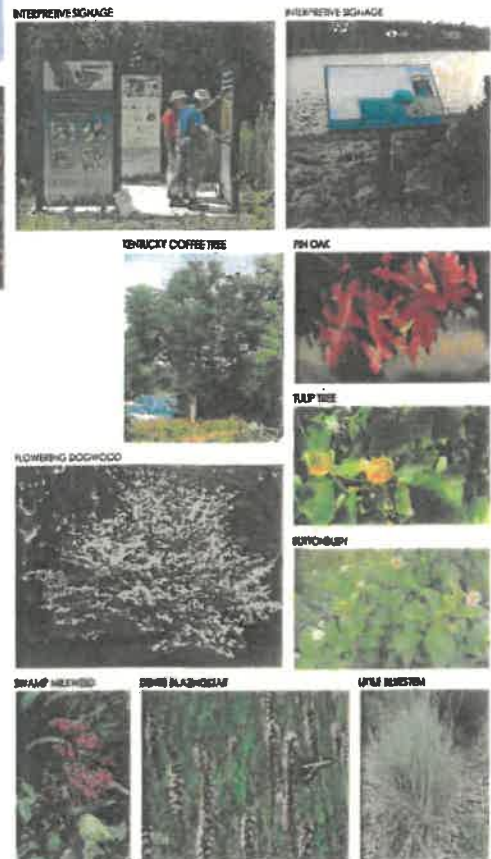
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Plan Update\Earth Day Celebration.docx



EARTH WALK TRAIL CONCEPT PLAN VIEW

SCALE = 1 : 1000

EARTH WALK TRAIL - OVERALL CONCEPT



CAROLINIAN GARDEN CONCEPT
PLAN VIEW

EARTH WALK TRAIL - CAROLINIAN GARDEN CONCEPT