

Township of North Kawartha

280 Burleigh Street, PO Box 550, Apsley, ON K0L 1A0
Tel: 705-656-4445 | 1-800-755-6931 | Fax: 705-656-4446
www.northkawartha.ca

Report to Council

To: Mayor and Council Members
From: Gary Gerald, Director of Parks and Recreation / Waste Management
Date: August 20, 2026
Subject: Riverview Park Enhancement

Recommendation:

That Council approve the implementation of the Riverview Park Enhancement Plan, including the proposal submitted by Clearwing Ecological Gardening and the engagement of a certified arborist to perform the associated arboricultural work, with funding in the amount of \$58,600 to be provided through a transfer of \$36,000 from the Parks Reserve Fund and \$22,600 from General Reserves.

Background:

Riverview Park is a municipally owned greenspace located on Riverview Drive in a residential neighbourhood off McFadden Road in Apsley. The park consists of a large naturalized property fronting onto Eels Creek and situated between residential properties.

Under the direction of Council, significant efforts were made during 2023 and 2024 to restore and enhance the park's natural features, accessibility, and usability. Improvements completed by Parks and Recreation staff included:

- Removal of dead, fallen, and hazardous trees within striking distance of trails and pathways.
- Restoration and reopening of existing trail networks throughout the park, including access to Eels Creek.
- Distribution of wood-chip mulch along forested trails.
- Clearing and enhancement of the riverside area adjacent to Eels Creek.
- Construction of a gravel parking area at the park entrance to accommodate visitors and support compliance with the "No Parking" restrictions on Riverview Drive.
- Installation of bear-resistant waste and recycling receptacles.



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- Design and installation of a new Riverview Park entrance sign.
- Installation of approximately 400 feet of 6-foot-high black chain-link fencing along neighbouring property boundaries.
- Development and maintenance of vegetative buffer zones to enhance privacy for adjacent property owners.
- Restoration of grassed areas for public enjoyment.
- Ongoing maintenance of trails, shoreline areas, and grassed spaces.
- Development of a comprehensive park concept plan incorporating environmentally sustainable and ecologically sensitive design principles.

Analysis:

Unfortunately, Riverview Park sustained significant damage during the March 2025 ice storm. As a result, planned enhancement work was delayed while priority was given to storm cleanup operations and the restoration of safe public access throughout the park.

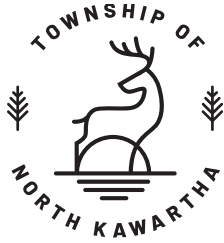
Due to the widespread impact of the storm across the municipality, it was not until late 2025 that Riverview Park could be fully cleared and deemed safe for public use.

The park concept plan was circulated in 2026 and quotations were sought from contractors specializing in naturalized and environmentally responsible landscape design. The Township received a single proposal from Clearwing Ecological Gardening of Apsley, Ontario. And for irrigation reasons, the maintenance free eco-friendly plantings as recommended in the proposed Park Plan, and as quoted by Clearwing, can only be done in the Fall.

Victoria Readings, Owner of Clearwing Ecological Gardening, conducted site visits during the peak growing season and met with staff to review site conditions and discuss opportunities for enhancement. Based on these assessments, a phased implementation plan over the Fall season has been developed that incorporates both hardscape improvements initially and then softscape.

If approved, the project is anticipated to be completed by the fall of 2026.

The required arboricultural work will be undertaken collaboratively by Clearwing Ecological Gardening, a certified local Arborist and Parks and Recreation staff, to ensure the project is completed safely and in accordance with best environmental practices.



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Financial Implications:

Revenue:

Parks Reserve Fund -	\$36,000.00	
Transfer from General Reserve -	<u>\$22,600.00</u>	\$58,600.00

Expense:

Clearwing Ecological Gardening -	\$48,600.00	
Arborist -	\$ 8,000.00	
Other supplies -	<u>\$ 2,000.00</u>	\$58,600.00

Strategic and/or Other Plans:

Infrastructure

1. Ensure that the existing infrastructure is sustained reflective of the Asset Management Plan.

Governance

1. Provide Quality Community Programs and Services.

Environment

1. Promote Responsible Environmental Stewardship.

Consultant(s) Sourced:

Victoria Readings, Clearwing Ecological Gardening
Shawn Tucker, Parks and Recreation Supervisor

Attachment:

Clearwing Ecological Gardening Quote/Proposal