



**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG**

**OFFICE OF PARKS, FACILITIES, RECREATION & CULTURE**

*MISSION STATEMENT: Committed to delivering cost-effective and efficient services for the residents of the Town of Amherstburg with a view to improve and enhance their quality of life.*

<b>Author's Name: Heidi Baillargeon</b>	<b>Report Date: January 13, 2025</b>
<b>Author's Phone: 519 736-5712 ext. 2128</b>	<b>Date to Council: January 27, 2025</b>
<b>Author's E-mail: hbaillargeon@amherstburg.ca</b>	<b>Resolution #:</b>

**To: Mayor and Members of Town Council**

**Subject: Angstrom Park Commemorative Bench**

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**1. RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that:

1. The Angstrom Park Commemorative Bench report dated January 27, 2025 **BE RECEIVED for information.**

**2. BACKGROUND:**

On June 12, 2023 a commemorative program policy was adopted by Council as attached under **Appendix A**. The commemorative bench program is covered under this policy and lists several parks in Amherstburg with existing base infrastructure already installed to meet accessibility requirements. These parks include: The Libro Centre, Warren Mickle Park, Malden Centre Park, Austin Toddy Jones Park, Jack Purdie Park, South Gateway, Beaudoin Park and Golfview Park.

On November 12, 2024 Council and Administration received an email from an Amherstburg resident requesting a commemorative bench be placed in Angstrom Park in memory of a young Amherstburg boy who recently passed that lived in the Golfview area and enjoyed the park on a regular basis.

**3. DISCUSSION:**

Angstrom Park is located at 946-954 Front Rd North along the Detroit River at the end of County Road 10. It is important to note that this park is not included in the list of parks for which a commemorative bench can be installed. The following information provides

further clarity as to why this is not an ideal location for a commemorative bench at this time.

A small portion of land that dissects the park is owned by the Ministry of Natural Resources and is directly adjacent to the Wyandotte Cemetery on the North that is owned by the Crown-Indigenous Relations and North Affairs Canada as identified in **Appendix B**.

The park is archeologically significant due to its' location along the Detroit River and its' proximity to the Wyandotte Cemetery which is the primary reason it is not currently listed among parks to receive benches as part of the commemorative policy program at this time. In addition, there is a period of approximately 6 weeks or more depending on the amount of precipitation in a given year where a large portion of the park is underwater and the Town cannot cut the grass due to flooding.

In July of 2024, the Town hosted a parks summit meeting open house to gain feedback from the public regarding all the parks within Amherstburg. The design attached under **Appendix C** was presented at this meeting as potential upgrades for Angstrom park to improve accessibility and promote access to the waterfront aligning with the Town's Community Strategic Plan. Although the park is small measuring only 708 square meters, its most unique asset is waterfront access and the beautiful views of the river.

Although installing a bench at this location seems like a simple request, the site characteristics of the park make this initiative a little more challenging. If it is the desire of Council to waive the current policy related to commemorative benches in order to install a memorial bench at this location, Administration is providing the following three options for Councils consideration and direction:

**Option A:** Place a commemorative metal bench at Golfview park on a concrete pad in accordance with the commemorative program policy. Golfview park is down the road from Angstrom park and currently has the infrastructure in place to readily receive a bench that satisfies the Town's accessibility requirements and is an approved park in the current policy for a commemorative bench. When funding is identified for the re-development of Angstrom Park which would then allow for appropriate commemorative bench installation adding the park to the policy, the bench could be relocated to Angstrom Park. This can be done in accordance with the Towns current policy. A metal bench installed at Golfview park on a new concrete pad would cost the applicant \$3678 according to the 2025 user fee schedule.

**Option B:** Place a metal bench in Angstrom park on a pre-cast concrete pad which can be lifted and moved into a more permanent location when the park is properly re-developed. First Nations will also be consulted, should the Town require additional funding, a report will be brought back to Council. With this option it should be noted that the bench will not be accessible, and could potentially be underwater in the rainy season. Council would also need to waive the current policy to allow for this bench to be installed and acknowledge the bench will not meet AODA requirements. Such direction may result in other requests for benches at this park or other parks which are currently not in the policy as there are issues with the location for bench installation. This can be done for a cost of approximately \$5,000 excluding any First Nations costs. Additional costs in this option over and above the bench include additional stone, rebar, labour and material to place it on site at this location.

**Option C:** Commence the necessary earthworks to redevelop the park, which would include supply and installation of clean fill in the park re-grading to ensure positive drainage with a simple granular 'A' pathway and bench on a concrete pad for accessibility. This option includes consultation with First Nations, raising the grade in the park for positive drainage and for archeological sensitivity. If this is completed the park could be added to the current policy to allow for commemorative benches. Cost to the Town, for this option is approximately \$70,000. Estimated cost break down is as follows:

- Formal First Nations Consultation: Caldwell, Huron Wendat, Walpole – Cost TBD
- Supply, place and spread clean fill material in park to raise grade to address drainage \$25,000
- Install geo-grid and compacted granular 'A' for pathway - \$20,000
- Supply and place metal commemorative bench on concrete pad - \$5,000
- Restoration and hydro seeding \$10,000
- Contingency \$10,000

The costs to the applicant noted above are reflective of the commemorative program policy whereby the applicant of the bench would be expected to pay for the full cost of the metal bench on a concrete pad in the amount of \$3,678 according to the most current user fee schedule. The Town would pay the remaining fees as outlined above. More specifically the applicant would be required to pay \$3,678 for metal bench on concrete pad as defined in Option B. For Option B, the Town would incur \$1,322 in costs, the difference between current cost (\$5,000) and fee charged (\$3,678).

Shoreline stabilization is also recommended for the western border of Angstrom Park which is not included in the costs outline above and will require Ministry approval. The Ministry of Natural Resources is an adjacent property owner and may also be interested in improving the site to prevent further erosion from wave action along the river bank at this location. If Council directs Administration to proceed with Option C and future Capital funding is identified to address the shoreline, Administration would remove the bench for a duration of time while park improvements are underway, re-installing it upon completion of any future work.

#### **4. RISK ANALYSIS:**

The site's unique character due to its close relationship to the Wyandotte Cemetery reinforces the need for consultation with Indigenous and Native Communities prior to undertaking works on these lands, and, in respecting the potential archaeological significance of the lands. All options presented by Administration are mindful of these elements and seek to mitigate the risk associated.

As an obligated organization under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), the Town is required to ensure accessible requirements are met, as reinforced in the Town's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and its statement of commitment to accessibility. For this reason, the risk of challenge to the installation of a bench in an inaccessible location would be best mitigated by opting for Option A, the temporary installation of a bench at Golfview Park until such time as funding is available to

complete the works required at Angstrom Park, and transfer the commemorative marker to this location.

**5. FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

The costs outlined in Option B and C in this report are not currently captured in the existing proposed capital or operating budget. Should Council wish to proceed with Option B direction would need to be provided to Administration as follows:

1. Waiving of the current policy to allow a bench in Angstrom park;
2. Funding for the outstanding \$1,322 be from the current operations budget.

Should Council wish to proceed with Option C, at an estimated cost of \$70,000, Administration would recommend re-allocating funding from an existing capital project in the 2025 – 2029 Capital Budget with a report back to Council should the tender for this work come in over the estimated \$70,000.

**6. CONSULTATIONS:**

Melissa Osborne, Deputy CAO/Director of Development Services  
Annette Zahaluk, Manager of Parks and Naturalized Areas

Commemorative Bench Applicant

**7. CORPORATE STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:**

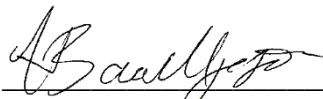
***Vision: Preserving our past while forging our future.***

<i>Amherstburg Community Strategic Plan 2022 - 2026</i>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PILLAR 1</b> <b>Deliver Trusted &amp; Accountable Local Government</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Improve trust between council and staff, and residents, by strengthening governance and internal accountability structures.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Deliver transparent and efficient financial management.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Increase effective communication and engagement with residents.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Develop our staff team, resources, and workplace culture.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Continue to deliver strong core municipal services.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ensure Amherstburg is an inclusive accessible and welcoming community committed to reconciliation.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PILLAR 3</b> <b>Encourage Local Economic Prosperity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Encourage development of commercial and industrial lands.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Continue to promote local tourism industry, especially overnight accommodation.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Continue to facilitate downtown development for residents and visitors.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Continue to leverage partnership opportunities with other provincial, federal, and local governments, agencies, and organizations.</li> </ul>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PILLAR 2</b> <b>Invest in Community Amenities and Infrastructure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Maintain safe, reliable and accessible municipal infrastructure and facilities.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Increase access to recreation opportunities for all ages.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Finalize and execute plans for town-owned lands (e.g. Duffy’s site, Belle Vue)</li> <li>✓ Create public access to water and waterfront</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prioritize opportunities to reduce environmental impacts of Town operations and increase Town resilience to climate change.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PILLAR 4</b> <b>Shape Growth Aligned with Local Identity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Define and communicate a vision for the Town’s future and identity.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Promote and plan for green and “climate change ready” development.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Review and implement policies that promote greater access to diverse housing.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Protect the Town’s historic sites and heritage.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Preserve the Town’s greenspaces, agricultural lands, and natural environment.</li> </ul>

**8. CONCLUSION:**

In keeping with the Towns current polices and procedures it is recommended Council receive this report for information, and, if appropriate, direct Administration to move forward with one of the three options outlined in this report.



Heidi Baillargeon  
**Director of Parks Facilities and Recreation**

## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Angstrom Park Commemorative Bench.docx
Attachments:	- Appendix A Commemorative Program Policy.pdf - Appendix B - Angstrom Park and Ministry of Natural Resources Land parcels.pdf - Appendix C 2024 Angstrom_Proposed Master Plan.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Jan 15, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Tracy Prince



Valerie Critchley



Kevin Fox