



**City of Kingston
Report to Council
Report Number 26-144**

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Jennifer Campbell, Commissioner, Community Services
Resource Staff: Amy Elgersma, Director, Recreation & Leisure Services
Date of Meeting: June 2, 2026
Subject: Naming Rights and Scope for the Swimming Dock and Water Play Area in Flora MacDonald Confederation Basin and Inflatable Water Park Alternative Location

Council Strategic Plan Alignment:

Theme: 3. Build an Active and Connected Community

Goal: 3.1 Expand parks and recreation opportunities and participation.

Executive Summary:

This report provides an update on the Confederation Basin Promenade Project and seeks Council direction on revised project scope as a sponsorship agreement with Patry Inc. Developments could not be finalized.

The Confederation Basin Promenade Project is intended to enhance Kingston's downtown waterfront through improved public access, shoreline connectivity and recreational swimming opportunities. The project includes an expanded promenade connection between Battery Park and the Confederation Basin breakwater, enhanced gathering spaces and improved waterfront access.

On July 8, 2025, Council approved a proposed naming rights arrangement tied to a \$1 million in-kind sponsorship and naming rights, "Patry Aquatic Park", for a 20-year term through the provision of material and equipment for a new inflatable water park and to support enhanced swimming platform facilities. The additional scope included supporting amenities such as a washroom/changeroom facility in Battery Park ([Report Number 25-179](#)). While discussions

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continued following Council approval, a final agreement could not be reached. As a result, staff are recommending proceeding with the promenade development and the enhanced swimming platform, washroom/change room facilities while removing the inflatable water park component from the project scope. This change in scope will require additional capital funding of \$400,000 to be included in the development of the 2027 capital budget, subject to future Mayoral budget direction.

An opportunity to explore Grass Creek Park as a future location for a privately owned and operated inflatable water park has been identified. Based on a detailed technical review and site analysis, it has been determined that the site can support future consideration of inflatable water park components, subject to regulatory approvals. Staff are recommending that Council authorize preliminary work associated with pursuing the required Crown land lease and related approvals, so the City is positioned to respond to future partnership or sponsorship opportunities.

Recommendation:

That Council direct staff to discontinue all work related to the previously approved naming rights agreement with Patry Inc. Developments for the proposed "Patry Aquatic Park"; and

That Council direct staff to retain the enhanced swimming platform and washroom/change room facility as part of the Confederation Basin Promenade Project, and to include the necessary budget amendments in the development of the 2027 capital budget; and

That Council direct staff to pursue a Crown land lease and associated approvals to facilitate any future inflatable water park interest at Grass Creek Park.

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Authorizing Signatures:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

**Jennifer Campbell,
Commissioner, Community
Services**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**Lanie Hurdle, Chief
Administrative Officer**

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

Paige Agnew, Commissioner, Growth & Development Services

Neil Carbone, Commissioner, Corporate & Emergency Services

Not required

David Fell, President & CEO, Utilities Kingston

Not required

Desirée Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer

Jenna Morley, City Solicitor

Not required

Ian Semple, Commissioner, Transportation & Infrastructure Services

Not required

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Options/Discussion:

Background

The Confederation Basin Promenade Project will create an enhanced public waterfront experience along the existing breakwater which currently protects the Flora MacDonald Confederation Basin. The proposed promenade will connect to Battery Park and significantly improve Kingston’s downtown shoreline experience.

In 2022, a number of optional elements were identified for potential inclusion within the project scope. Most notably, these included extending the promenade to create a continuous pathway from Battery Park to the lighthouse navigational beacon. Additional enhancements included increasing the promenade width to 4 metres along the main pathway, expanding to a 5 metre-wide gathering area with seating at the “elbow” and introducing a new entry feature at Battery Park consisting of a concrete gathering space with improved access to the water.

In July 2025, Council approved funding and a proposed naming rights arrangement to support expanded swimming opportunities at this location including an inflatable water park and enhanced swimming platform facilities. An in-kind sponsorship contribution of \$1 million from Patry Inc. Developments was brought forward in exchange for naming rights, “Patry Aquatic Park”, tied to the swimming enhancements.

Sponsorship Agreement Status

While discussions with Patry Inc. Developments continued following Council approval, a final agreement could not be reached. At this time, staff are seeking Council direction to move forward with the project, without the sponsorship contribution. This will see the removal of the inflatable water park elements that were to be part of the sponsorship.

Staff have reviewed options to retain the enhanced swimming platform facility, which was identified through public consultation as a valued waterfront amenity. This enhancement aligns with Council objectives related to recreation, tourism and public access to the water. Staff are recommending, through this report, that the project proceed with the enhanced swimming platform components. To deliver the enhanced swimming platform presented to and endorsed by Council in 2025, additional funding of approximately \$400,000 will need to be included in the 2027 capital budget.

Inflatable Water Park Community Feedback

A number of residents expressed concerns regarding the inflatable water park concept location. Concerns included increased noise and activity levels, parking and traffic impacts, security and supervision requirements. Staff have continued to assess other sites and locations that could offer better amenities to support the operations of a potential future inflatable park. Accordingly, staff recommend removing the inflatable water park from the Confederation Basin Promenade project scope.

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Future Opportunity – Grass Creek Park

Grass Creek Park offers an established waterfront recreation setting with existing beach access, on-site parking, changerooms, washrooms and separation from dense residential areas. It is well-suited to seasonal recreation programming. Many other inflatable parks in other communities are located within waterfront/beach settings. Grass Creek Park was previously screened out for an inflatable water activation due to concerns regarding shallow water depths and the distance users would need to swim to reach a floating inflatable structure. Since that time, staff have completed a bathymetric review of water depths and lakebed conditions, further assessed wave and wind conditions, and reviewed inflatable systems suitable for shallower water depths. Alternative configurations can now be considered. Based on this updated review, Grass Creek Park may support a future inflatable water park, subject to approvals. A Crown Land Lease would be required if an inflatable water park were to be considered for this location.

Crown Land Lease Requirement

The water lot at Grass Creek Park is under Crown jurisdiction. If any additional consideration of an inflatable or other water amenity activation at this location were to be brought forward, the City would need to secure a lease or other tenure arrangement and complete supporting studies. In addition to the land lease approvals, permitting would be required from the Cataraqui Regional Conservation Authority (CRCA) and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). The process and required approvals are expected to take about three years and would allow, but not bind the City, to move forward with any future opportunities. Though there is no specific sponsorship or private interest identified at this time, staff are recommending that Council give direction to pursue these approvals so that the City would be better positioned to respond in a timely way to any future public, private or partnership-based proposals. This work would be included in the 2027+ work plan. Staff would return to Council with updates on this lease and approval process and to seek additional direction as the process requires.

Existing Policy/By-Law:

[Naming of Corporate Assets Policy # POL-62](#)

[Corporate Sponsorship Policy # POL-63](#)

[Procurement Policy By-Law Number 2022-154](#)

Financial Considerations:

This report recommends that staff add \$400,000 to the 2027 capital budget to bridge the financial gap to implement the enhanced swimming platform in the absence of the sponsorship revenue. Staff are also in the process of reviewing any applicable cost escalation since the approval of the initial project and budget. This will be considered in the 2027 capital budget.

Staff continue to solicit opportunities for project funding, including grants, donations, sponsorship and naming rights. Some of the suggested opportunities include sponsorship of the

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access point, lookout, harbour lights, rest area and possible naming rights of the swimming docks and promenade. All opportunities must be considered as per the Corporate Sponsorship Policy and Naming of Corporate Assets Policy.

The due diligence work associated with securing crown leases and approvals for future considerations at Grass Creek Park will be accommodated within the future operating and capital budgets of the Recreation & Leisure Services department.

Indigenization, Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Accessibility (IIDEA) Considerations

The recommended enhanced swimming platform and supporting facilities would continue to prioritize accessible waterfront recreation opportunities through barrier-free design, accessible routes and inclusive change facilities.

Contacts:

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Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

Mitchell Wiskel, Manager, Parks & Outdoor Recreation, Recreation & Leisure Services

Matthew McCombs, Project Engineer (Shoreline), Parks & Outdoor Recreation, Recreation & Leisure Services

Julie Fossitt, Manager, Marketing and Revenue Development

Exhibit:

Exhibit A Flora MacDonald Confederation Basin Promenade Project Concept

Flora MacDonald Confederation Basin Promenade Project Concept

