

Nobleton park construction now under way

By Mark Pavilons

Nobleton's newest park is taking shape.

Preliminary grading is taking place on the site.

Council approved the tender in June and construction is under way.

According to Chris Fasciano, director of parks, recreation and culture, most hard services (playground, splashpad, trails, soccer field, skatepark) will be completed this year, with soft services (landscaping and sodding) being finalized in the spring of 2016.

?This is an enormous investment for our community and I am thrilled to see the project get under way,? said Councillor David Boyd. ?I look forward to celebrating the opening of the park next summer and enjoying the community spirit it will provide for years to come.?

The public embraced the project and dozens flocked to the final public meeting this past winter.

The large, 21-acre (8.5 hectare) park will be host a wide variety of unique features, literally offering something for everyone. The park is located behind Nobleton Senior Public School and is flanked by Park Heights Trail and Goodfellow Crescent. While a formal name has yet to be chosen, it's referred to as Metrus Community Park Block.

Among the features to be included in this facility will be a splash pad, soccer field, modern playground equipment, walkways, trails, furnishings and even a hill for tobogganing.

Feedback and input was gathered from the community to create this grass-roots facility.

The property is large and the topography, he said, is both beneficial and a challenge. They want to keep a substantial portion of the park natural. They're working with an existing slope and one of the challenges is trying to incorporate the two existing lagoons for the public to enjoy safely.

There will be little impact on existing residents, with buffers ranging from 20 to 60 metres around the perimeter.

The dog park, although not planned for the initial phase, would be a fenced area.

The concept calls for between 45 and 85 parking spaces.