

# Keeping Our Community Green and Healthy

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There are two significant documents coming before Council in November. One is the final version of the green star program and one is the first draft of the Recreation, Parks and Facilities Masterplan.

The green star program concept was first presented to Council in April of 2018 and has seen numerous revisions based on consultation with residents, local authorities and planning considerations in the draft Official Plan. Municipal staff have met with representatives of the MECP and TBDHU and held a Special Meeting in March of 2019 to discuss both the Official Plan and green star programs as they are tied through the MWWSP completed in 2017. On June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Council approved the implementation date of January 1, 2020, with some modifications to make the program less onerous on residents. **No building permits will be issued in high-density areas after January 1, 2020, unless the property meets these standards.** The key outcome of the green star program is to avoid costly installation of user-pay communal systems while reducing health and safety risk to residents and visitors in high-density areas. Property owners receive a “green star” certificate when wastewater systems are compliant with the Ontario Building Code and a well-water test meets Ministry of Health standards. Associations in Shuniah will be considered compliant when all sites within the lands are compliant. Under the Planning Act and Ontario Building Code, associations need to be treated as the single entity they are as are properties outside of associations. In the case of fire or other natural disaster a building permit may be obtained to replace only what was there provided other necessary approvals are received. (e.g. MECP, TBDHU, LRCA, OBC)

Another study that will be coming before Council is the Recreation, Parks and Facilities Masterplan that has been developed by the consultants Brook McIlroy. They will be presenting a draft plan to Council with the goal of guiding future recreation, parks and facility planning. Implementation of this strategy will enhance the Municipality’s recreational, cultural and community amenities, and will help promote economic and socially sustainable recreation design.

The vision of the Masterplan strategy:

**Identify, celebrate, expand and connect the existing Shuniah recreational areas in support of a unique and prosperous community identity.**

The projects that have been identified throughout the Masterplan will be popular within the community and for visitors and will present the highest impact for investment value through park enhancement and area development.