



A Win For Colbee Park Users – A Masterplan... And \$573K in Funding!

## Description



*With members of the Oakville Raiders Baseball club and Hawkesbury Sports Council President Les*

Overwhelmingly, the biggest problem Council has with developing masterplans for our parks is there is

no money allocated to execute the plans once they're made. In this term I have lamented that community consultation and masterplanning processes raise community expectations, only to dash them with no follow-through.

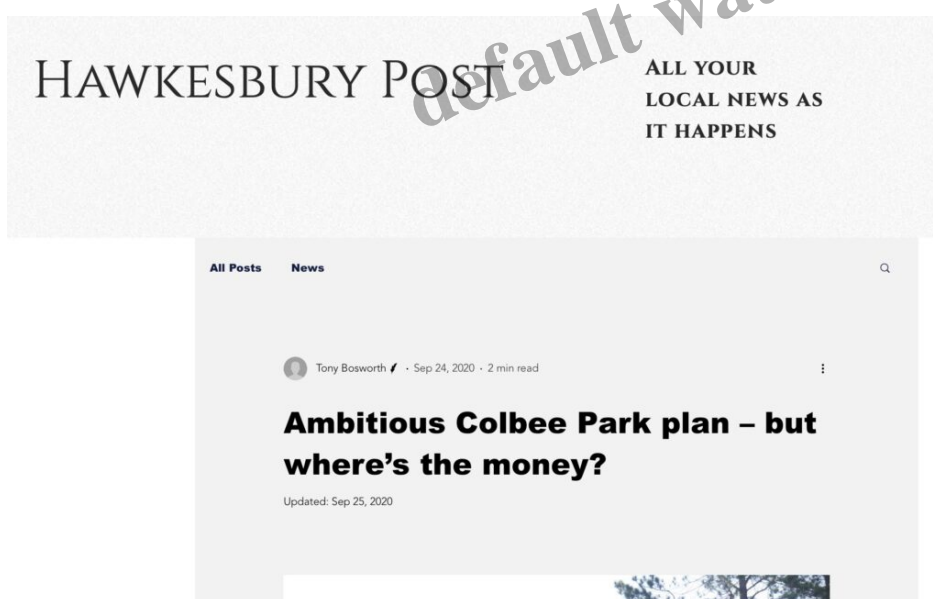
Take [Colbee Park](#) in McGraths Hill as an example. It is one of our most used, and most neglected sports fields. I should know, as a Soccer Dad whose child's club was based at the park for a decade.

[I've been engaged in a long campaign](#) of engagement and advocacy to get some funding for improvements to the park.

The process for developing a Masterplan for the park has taken two years. Community consultation began in August 2019, and received a surprisingly strong response, with 152 online survey responses.

In September 2020, Council exhibited a Draft Masterplan, and I engaged with various stakeholder groups such as the [Oakville United Soccer Club](#), the [Oakville Raiders Baseball Club](#), and the [Hawkesbury Hornets BMX Club](#) to ask if the plan met their current and future needs. The response was mixed, with feedback mentioning limited vehicular access to the BMX track, a lack of lighting (making Colbee the only competitive BMX track in Sydney without lights), noting the susceptibility of the park to low-level flooding, and suggesting storage be moved to higher ground.

Crucially, [and as was observed by the media at the time](#) (in September 2020), no money was in prospect to build the improvements to the park.



Hopefully, this will change now. I moved for Council to adopt the new masterplan for Colbee Park at our meeting tonight. It was passed unanimously, and **after my advocacy last year, I'm pleased to say that \$573,000 has been allocated in the 2021-2022 Budget.** This is not enough to complete all the improvements, but it's an excellent start. These funds will allow core or 'enabling works' that facilitate future improvements, and will benefit the whole park (not just any one user-group).

I am convinced that only by having a local Councillor continue to advocate for future budgetary



commitments, will this program continue to advance. I didn't hear any other Councillor advocating for Colbee Park. No other Councillor lives in the area. I do.

Many of the earlier issues raised by stakeholders have been addressed, and I've contacted each of them to verify they are satisfied with the final plan.

The masterplan documents are available [at Council's website](#) (meeting of 27 July 2021, item 140).



*Helping to clean up Colbee Park at a May 2021 Council post-flood cleanup day, with Federal MP Susan Templeman (we were the only two volunteers who turned up!)*



Colbee Park Soccer Dad!

### Category

1. Uncategorized

### Tags

1. Colbee Park
2. Oakville
3. McGraths Hill
4. Hawkesbury Sports Council
5. Oakville Raiders
6. Oakville United Soccer Club

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councill