

Residents invited to tee up ideas for Garden City Golf Course

May 1, 2020 — Golf season is here, and while current emergency restrictions may be keeping golfers away from the game, the City is hoping residents will tee up some ideas to improve the Garden City Golf Course.

Online engagement relating to improved operations and amenities for the Garden City Golf Course opens today at www.engageSTC.ca/GolfCourse, inviting residents to share their experiences with the municipally owned and operated course. Perhaps more importantly the month-long period of online engagement will encourage golfers and residents alike to share their ideas related to improving the operation and sustainability of the course.

The City has operated the 18-hole, par-60 course on the site of a former landfill in Merriton for nearly 30 years. As one of the last remaining municipal golf courses in the area, the course operates seven days a week during the spring, summer and fall months and is known for its value and walkability.

Since 2005 the City has worked to make improvements to the attraction with realigned tees, improved drainage, grading, additional trees and other investments.

“Even with these investments we know there is always room for improvement, and we know golfers and residents can provide us with unique insight,” said Community, Recreation and Culture Services Manager of Business Planning and Strategic Services Eric Lamothe, adding, “we want everyone, be they avid golfers, occasional players or even those who have never used the course to help us identify ways we can better operate and improve this hidden gem.”

Operation of the course has been the subject of repeated debate during the City’s budget process, with ideas ranging from irrigation changes to divesture of the asset to a third-party operator being examined in the past. As part of the 2020 budget process City Council directed the public be engaged in the generation of ideas to make the course more sustainable.

The online engagement effort will run from May 1 until 4 p.m. on May 31.

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