



STAFF REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

STAFF REPORT NO: DSR-081-20

DATE: June 3, 2020

To: Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Members of Council

From: Meredith Goodwin, Capital Project Manager

Subject: Big Bay Point Road End Improvements (PKS191-2020)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides information regarding the Road End program and requests Council consideration of restricting ice fishing access at Big Bay Point Road End.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Staff Report DSR-081-20 Big Bay Point Road End (PKS191-2020) dated June 3, 2020, be received; and
2. That Council direct Staff to proceed with the signage and barriers to restrict ice fishing access at Big Bay Point Road End.



TOWN OF INNISFIL STAFF REPORT

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Date: June 3, 2020
To: Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Members of Council
From: Meredith Goodwin, Capital Project Manager
Subject: Big Bay Point Road End Improvements (PKS191-2020)
Cross Reference: 2020.02.04 Resident Notice Big Bay Point PKS191-2020
<https://www.getinvolvedinnisfil.ca/bbp>

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Staff Report DSR-081-20 Big Bay Point Road End (PKS191-2020) dated June 3, 2020, be received; and
2. That Council direct Staff to proceed with the signage and barriers to restrict ice fishing access at Big Bay Point Road End.

BACKGROUND:

The Road End Program is an annual program that began in 2017 from a recommendation in the 2016 Parks & Recreation Master Plan "Active Innisfil". There are 46 public right-of-ways and easements that are under the ownership of the Town of Innisfil that terminate at Lake Simcoe and Kempenfelt Bay shorelines. Despite the small size of the parcels averaging 0.1 ha, these access points are highly valued by local residents. These parcels are frequently used and considered part of our park inventory with unique features and amenities such as docks, swimming, beaches, boat launches, picnic areas, scenic views, ice fishing access etc. The desire for greater public access to the waterfront has been a long-standing concern in Innisfil, with numerous studies and plans dating back over the past 25 years. Since the approval of the program in 2017 the Town has completed two Road End improvements at Gilford Road, Shore Acres Drive, and finalizing construction at the 9th Line Road End.

Big Bay Point Road End is a very unique viewpoint and is a great spot to sit and enjoy the view of Lake Simcoe anytime of the year, which is shown below in Photos 1 and 2.



Photo 1- December 2019 view facing North



Photo 2- December 2019 view facing South

Staff met in late 2019 to review the site with respect to opportunities for drainage improvements and options for improvements to the Road End and subsequently provided these options for residents to review and provide input through the Get Involved Innisfil website <https://www.getinvolvedinnisfil.ca/bbp>. Staff understand that these Road Ends are very much special places for local residents and any improvements made should be done with the support of the residents. Notices were hand delivered to residents within a 15min walk of the Road end the first week of February 2020 and a survey was launched on the website.

The Town retained an arborist to review the site to identify the general health and condition of the trees, which was summarized in a report. The report recommended the removal of trees that were dead, in poor condition, or Ash trees infected with the Emerald Ash Borer. Staff advised residents in the notice that the tree removal would commence in Spring 2020. The Trees were removed in March 2020 in advance of the bird nesting window.

ANALYSIS/CONSIDERATION:

The resident survey was open from the beginning of February and closed March 14th. The survey results are shown in in Figure 1 below.



Figure 1- Survey Results

The primary response was to simply enhance what is there. Take out the road, enlarge the beach area, and have no parking.

Through the Get Involved website residents also had the opportunity to submit questions/comments. There were a few residents that requested no motorized vehicle access to the lake from the road and for the Town to restrict ice fishing access. Common concerns noted from local residents with respect to ice fishing access at the Big Bay Point Road End are parking issues, damages to the park with vehicles driving though to get onto the ice, and garbage that is left behind. It should be noted, however that there are many different users of these great lake access points and the unique amenities/uses for the spaces can be spread out throughout different access points along the lake to accommodate the numerous users.

The 9th Line project design incorporated winter access to motorized vehicles and ice fishing, as the comments received from public engagement indicated that ice fishing was supported by the majority of residents. The ice fishing community indicated that 9th Line was a key access point for ice fishing.

In Gilford, there were similar complaints from local residents regarding ice fishing access, so the Town added bollards that restrict lake access for motorized vehicles and ice fishing access, however access remains at the Shore Acres Road End only 0.5 kms away.



Figure 4- Gilford Road End with new bollards

Similar to Gilford, there is lake access close to Big Bay Point Road. If ice fishing were restricted at Big Bay Point Road the alternative location would be 30th Sideroad south just a little over 1km away. 30th Sideroad South is scheduled for improvements in the Road End program in 2024 and temporary dock repairs are planned to be completed this year. Signage could be posted at Big Bay Point Road to indicate that ice fishing access is permitted at 30th Sideroad.

Based on the results of the survey, Staff will procure a consultant to complete the design of the space and commence construction in Spring 2021. Included in the design will be benches/picnic tables, plantings, additional sand, stormwater improvements and an accessible trail access to the beach to meet Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) requirements. To

restrict ice fishing access at Big Bay Point the design could also include signage and bollards similar to Gilford Road or large rocks to also block access.

A rendering of the works is included as Attachment 1.

LOCAL IMPACT:

This project is a space for Innisfil residents looking for a space to enjoy the lake access but especially for the local community who highly value this beautiful space and frequent this lake access regularly.

OPTIONS/ALTERNATIVES:

Option 1 – Allow Ice Fishing access and do not install bollards

Council could choose to continue to allow ice fishing and space would be designed to accommodate.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

The approved 2020 Budget for the Big Bay Point Road End PKS191-2020 is \$349,800. Staff anticipate that the proposed works, including installation of bollards and signage to restrict ice fishing, can be completed within the Council approved budget for this project.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommend restricting ice fishing access at Big Bay Point Road End and to promote ice fishing access at the 30th Sideroad South access.

PREPARED BY:

Meredith Goodwin, Capital Project Manager

APPROVED BY:

Jessica Jenkins, Capital Engineering Leader

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1- Rendering of works

Attachment 2- 2020.02.04 Resident Notice Big Bay Point PKS191-2020

Link: <https://www.getinvolvedinnisfil.ca/bbp>

Bring Some Spark to Big Bay Point Park!



February 12, 2020

Dear Resident,

The Town will be making improvements to the Big Bay Point road end, which includes removing the asphalt at the end of the road to add to the park space. For many of you, this is a special space that you cherish and enjoy. We want to ensure that we balance enhancements with the natural landscape that attracts people to the space.

We need to hear from you, and what enhancements you would like to see? In order to ensure that we make the right improvements that meet the needs of the local community!

Please visit the site <https://www.getinvolvedinnisfil.ca/bbp> to complete the survey and **SUBSCRIBE** for updates!

Upon completion of the survey the Town will post the results and the next steps for design and construction. This Spring, the Town will be removing some trees in the area. These trees are in poor condition or are ash trees affected by the Emerald Ash Borer.



Thanks,

Meredith Goodwin
Capital Project Manager
(705) 436-3740 Ext. 3220



