



Report No.  
PRF-21-25

File No.

Directed to: Mayor Joe Preston and Members of City Council

Meeting Date:  
May 20, 2025

Department: Parks, Recreation & Facilities

Authored By: Jeff Bray, Director, Parks, Recreation and Facilities

Attachment

Subject: Wind Phone Installation Request

**Recommendation:**

THAT: Report PRF-21-25 relating to Wind Phone Installation Request be received for information.

**Background:**

On April 14, 2025, staff received a “formal request for something meaningful and healing for the community, i.e., the installation of a Wind Phone within a city park. Under Petitions and Communications, a “Proposal for the installation of a Wind Phone in a Public Park in St. Thomas” was subsequently received by Council at the May 5, 2025 Council meeting.

In 2010, Itaru Sasaki created the Wind Phone in Japan to help him manage his cousin’s death. Placed in a quiet outdoor setting, a Wind Phone is a disconnected telephone that provides individuals a private space to express thoughts and emotions to loved ones who have passed away. Since the 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami, Wind Phone installations have spread across the world.

For additional information, please visit: <https://www.mywindphone.com/>

**Report:**

After a preliminary review, staff have no initial issues with the concept of a Wind Phone within a City park. The next step will be to complete a best practice review with jurisdictions that have installed Wind Phones. This will focus on durability and vandal resistance, i.e., the most robust type of phone to be repurposed, other installation requirements (shelter, visibility), and location parameters. If the long-term viability of a Wind Phone is positive, staff will confirm a suitable location and budget estimate.

A Report to Council providing an update on this item will be scheduled once the above research has been completed.

**Strategic Priority:**

Strategic Pillar: Prepared and Resilient City - Priority #2: Passionate and Engaged City Team

**Financial Impact:**

There are no financial impacts associated with this report.

**Report Approval:**

All Council reports are approved by the City Manager.