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Gatesbury Park and RTMP #15-7 – Online Public Consultation Summary July 1-31st, 2020

Question and Answers

During the month of July 2020, an online review and comment period was opened to the public. The City of Hamilton was requesting comments and feedback regarding park and trail development through Gatesbury Park and the Hydro corridor between Niska Dr. and Laurendale Ave. Project information and concept drawings were posted on the project web page at: www.hamilton.ca/gatesburypark The following is a summary of questions, answers and related feedback from the comment period.

Q&A:

Question 1:

Is this toward compliance with the AODA?

Answer:

This project aims to increase accessibility in the park and promote passive and active use of the walkways. The walkways will be graded to comply with AODA accessible paths of travel unless existing grades prohibit.

Question 2:

Caps

Who will maintain the grass areas through the hydro corridor?

Answer:

The existing maintenance regime will remain in the hydro corridor however, the City will mow a strip on either side of the new walkway at a higher frequency.

Question 3:

A trail is inaccurately shown through a portion of the hydro corridor near the railway tracks on the Trail Master Plan 15-7 sheet on the web page.

I would like to propose a new idea for a 1 km nature trail in Arrowhon Park. The trail would run on the perimeter of the park retaining the naturalized state but opening it up to nature walks, trail hikes and running path.

My concept would use minimal resources as two sides of the Park already have paved walkways running on Parkside and Boulding. The water retention pond is fenced but with the addition of approx. 200 ft of fence, the pond can remain fenced while the remaining cleared and grass cut section can form the nature trail. The balance of the trail would run at the straight line running parallel to Laurendale Ave behind existing property lines.

There would be minimal limestone walkway to be installed and the portion running parallel to Laurendale already is cleared by home owners (Some have used debris to block portions off).

The added advantage is the community would gain another 1 km of nature trail, nature learning and build infrastructure. It would be such a wonderful place to go running and connect Parkside to Laurendale (there is already a causeway connecting Laurendale to Arrowhon).

Answer:

We have this flagged for our Trails Masterplan update, hopefully to be undertaken in 2021. In the meantime, unfortunately the mapping will show the initiative as it is.

We have moved forward with the portions of 15-7 that we are able to with city lands, and that can be seen here:

<https://www.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/media/browser/2020-06-09/rec-trails-mpinitiative-concept-plan.pdf>

Our revised route brings trail users to the sidewalks on Laurendale Avenue and that will provide the connection to Parkside Drive via on-street facilities.

We will add your idea of a loop path through Arrowhon Park to our list of possible future trails to include in the update in 2021

Question 4:

Regarding the new trail upgrades to Gatesbury Park, they will be a good addition to the community.

Can I request three items at the trail terminating at Laurendale Avenue on the Hydro Corridor Walkway.

- 1) 2.9.2 Trail access barriers. I would recommend a terminating fence barrier or bollards. Laurendale Avenue is a busy street and a barrier at the end of the trail would ensure that children on bikes, etc. would not drive onto the street accidentally.
- 2) 2.10 Trail Signage. I would request a sign at the trail end that indicates the trail has ended. My property is across the street and I don't want people to assume that it is continued through my property (like it is shown in the masterplan).

- 3) Because Laurendale Avenue is a busy street (a traffic study was recently completed), speed reducing measures at the trail end would be a good idea (speed pillows)

Answer:

We will review the design for the need for trail barrier features. Thanks for the comment on that. We will also look at what kind of signage we might put at this location.

We appreciate the additional information regarding the trails in the natural space.

Question 5:

This walkway is not needed & I often walk here.

Answer:

We thank you for your feedback. The walkway project is part of an accessibility initiative for the park and the City's Recreational Trails Master plan. All comments and feedback received until July 31st will be summarized and available on the web page in early August.

Question 6:

Between Niska Dr. and Laurendale Ave. the planting of hydro friendly vegetation including fruit trees allowed by ROW / easement.

Answer:

We are working with our Forestry section to determine a planting scheme after construction is completed.

Question 7:

Will the trail will be extended over Boulding Avenue and finishing at Dundas Street?

Answer:

Currently there are no plans to extend the walkway in the hydro corridor. The trail will continue on the sidewalk (pedestrians) or on the road (cyclists) from Boulding Ave. to Burke St. Across Dundas St, then connect to the existing gravel multi-use trail on the east side of Burke St., between Dundas St. and McKnight Ave.