



COMMENTS/ QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Meeting Location:	WebEx Virtual Meeting	Time:	6:00 – 8:00 pm
Project Title:	Mountain Drive Park Masterplan	Date:	January 20, 2020
Purpose:	Introduction to Masterplan Process and Establishment of Task Force	Date Prepared:	January 21, 2020

The following are comments received by the task force members and is not a verbatim transcription. The comments have been categorized into themes and are not necessarily shown in the order asked. Responses to the comments and questions are provided.

ITEM	COMMENTS/ QUESTIONS BY THEME	RESPONSE
1.0	Trees and Parking	
1.1	Uses the park daily and doesn't want to lose sight of the big mature trees and their beauty.	Noted.
1.2	Some of the small trees on Concession Street are dead and need to be replaced.	Comment sent to the Forestry General line. For future reference, if a resident has any inquiries or concerns about public trees, comments can be sent to: forestry@hamilton.ca
1.3	Potential for parking area off entrance off 43 rd to attract more people to the park.	As part of the masterplan a review of parking locations and numbers will be conducted.
1.4	Has lived in the area for 22 years and has never driven or gone to the park in a car.	The masterplan will include a survey to inquire how residents currently use the park. A question that is typically asked is how residents access the park (i.e. walking, biking, driving, bus etc).
1.5	Wants the trees to stay and doesn't want to lose green space for parking. Agreement from several members on this point.	See response to item 1.3.
1.6	Wants to keep the green space and trees and wants to add trees along the west end of the trail because it is lacking right now.	Noted. The masterplan will review existing trees and opportunities for new tree planting.
2.0	Trail and Trail Connections	
2.1	Do the Wentworth stairs connect to Mountain Drive Park?	The Mountainbrow Trail system does connect the Wentworth stairs to Mountain Drive Park. For details about the Mountainbrow trail masterplan, see https://www.hamilton.ca/parks-recreation/creating-new-parks/mountain-brow-multi-use-pathway-feasibility-study .
2.2	Will there be a connection from Mountain Drive Park	Within the Recreational Trails

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	down to the lower city?	Masterplan, a link is proposed from the Rail trail to the lower City. Part of the masterplan can investigate a link to the rail trail for Mountain Drive Park to complete that link. Recreational Trail Masterplan is available at https://www.hamilton.ca/city-planning/master-plans-class-eas/recreational-trails-master-plan .
2.3	The path really narrows near Ben Lomond Place. Can the path be widened? The pathway width really varies between the parkette and the main park.	We will review the trail width as part of the masterplan. That trail section forms part of the Mountainbrow Trail system which recommends a width of 3m.
2.4	<p>Bikes and walks a lot and wants better accessibility and connections between Mountainbrow Drive and the trail and between Concession Street and the trail.</p> <p>At east 43rd street there is a connection missing between the street to the trail. There is a curb cut but no connection to the path. Need to review the curbs cuts across the entire length of trail because right now the trail is not accessible.</p>	We will review the circulation patterns and desire lines for pathways as part of the masterplan process, including curb cuts.
3.0 Lighting		
3.1	Concerned regarding lack of lights, especially in winter when it gets darker earlier. Request for lighting especially along the back trail near the escarpment.	We will review lighting as part of the masterplan process. Note that the Mountainbrow Trail masterplan recommended solar lighting along the pathway where lighting is inadequate and where the trail within the park forms part of that masterplan, this would be the recommendation. Link to masterplan report provided in item 2.1.
3.2	Is concerned about lighting especially along the back pathway and concerned that we'd have to wait until 2023 to get the lighting. Is concerned that lighting is a safety issue in the park.	See response to item 3.1
3.3	Like the solar lights used along the existing portion of Mountainbrow as they are both beautiful and efficient.	See response to item 3.1
4.0 Balance of Maintaining Beauty and New Amenity Requests		
4.1	Desire for the park to stay as beautiful as it is but see the opportunity for improvement. What are the general themes from the comments to-date?	General themes for request include upgraded playground equipment, washroom building upgrades, requests for spray pad, additional lighting and security along the trail, leash free area for dogs, opportunity for more benches, picnic tables. No suggestions received for sports fields or overly organized activities. General desire is to keep the

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		park passive.
4.2	Desire to maintain the simplicity of the park.	Noted.
4.3	Wants to see more done to encourage people to get out to the park, such as seniors and kids. Noticed that less kids are using the park than when they grew up. Wants to encourage community gathering. List of ideas include: horse shoe pit, mini skate park for kids, sports walls for hitting a ball against, disc golf, butterfly garden, birds' nests or perches, gazebo for performers (to play violin or guitar), video screen built into field house for a movie night.	Noted. As part of the masterplan we will conduct surveys to gather information on demographics of users, what is liked about the park and suggestions for new uses to be considered.
4.4	Wants to keep the greenspace and not take away for parking. Wants to also point out that Eastmount park can host some of the desired amenities and that all the suggested amenities don't need to go into Mountain Drive Park. Suggested the potential for a farmer's market but noted that parking is an issue (i.e. not enough, but then not wanting to take greenspace away to add parking).	See response to item 1.3.
4.5	Will the masterplan extend to upper Ottawa street? What are the limits?	The masterplan will not extend to Upper Ottawa Street. The masterplan will include the trail along Mountain Park Avenue from Upper Sherman to Concession and the main park area that ends just east of East 43 rd Street.
4.6	Wants to see more benches and noted that people would be happy to sponsor a commemorative bench.	There is an existing memorial program that includes benches, see https://www.hamilton.ca/hamilton-municipal-cemeteries/memorialization-options/ . We can review the number and distribution of existing and new benches during the masterplan and can coordinate location of benches with the memorial bench program.
4.7	Would like to have a sprinkler system for young kids and the elderly, a water fountain for pets and one that is accessible, outdoor gym station for pull up bars and sit ups and options to scan a QR code with your phone so that it pulls up exercises. Doesn't feel scared in the park and has used it all times of the day but had a big dog and felt safe. Well used by friends, family and neighbours.	Noted, we can review the amenities as part of the masterplan.
4.8	Suggests more benches and picnic tables, a mini soccer field and a basketball net. Suggests sponsor or memorial benches.	Noted. See response to items 4.6 and 4.7.
4.9	Doesn't want heavy recreational stuff but is supportive of less invasive things like horse shoes and a spray	Noted.

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	pad.	
4.10	Badminton court?	Noted.
5.0	Shade	
5.1	Desire to keep a canopy near the playground or areas where there is no shade provided by trees. A lot of seniors take shelter under the washroom building canopy as there is no other shade in that area.	Noted. We can review the shade options as part of the masterplan and with facilities. There is opportunity to keep the overhang off the building and explore the idea of a separate shade structure.
5.2	Like the canopy but wants to be able to see through the building more. Noted potential for having two smaller washrooms to allow for more visibility from street to behind the building.	See response to item 5.1. We will review sightlines against Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.
6.0	Winter	
6.1	Desire to look at winter activities just as much as we look at summer activities. Parks normally get a lot of summer activities but want to look at winter activities in the same kind of light. Example of Bernie Morelli and the splash pad being a skating rink in winter.	<p>Note that there is an existing program for community rinks that are run by volunteers, information is available here: https://www.hamilton.ca/winter-activities-in-hamilton. If a rink is desired, provision for access to water from the building to flood the rink can be explored.</p> <p>A dual-purpose skating pad and spray pad is different than a community run flooded rink in that it requires a facility to house a large mechanical system including provision for Zamboni storage that goes beyond our standard washroom building, provision for parking and enough open space to support a larger spray pad/ skating rink.</p> <p>Typically, these amenities are reserved for community or city-wide parks that have parking lots, access to change rooms/ washroom buildings and capacity for a larger mechanical system, including housing for a Zamboni. A new winter wonderland park is being explored in Ward 8 adjacent to William Connell Park. More information to come.</p>
6.2	Volunteers at the Eastmount Park ice at East 22 nd Street and supports multi-use function of the park. Wants to use it year-round. Suggested the idea of a skate distribution from the building like the City of Toronto does. Outdoor skating was well used.	See response to item 6.1

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6.3	There has in the past been a volunteer ice rink in the park. Is it too early in the process or is there a consideration for a Bernie Morelli type splash pad/drink at the park?	See response to item 6.1
7.0 Dogs		
7.1	Represents the dog walking community and uses the park 3-5 times daily. Tremendous support for off leash area particularly from seniors in the area as seniors are not as mobile and this allows them the opportunity to sit while their dogs gets exercise. If off leash area is on the table there might be opportunity for sponsorship.	Noted. The City has an existing Leash Free Policy and like the community rinks requires volunteer engagement. Note that the City's policy distinguishes between leash free areas and dog parks. Generally, leash free areas are not fenced, and dog parks are fenced. The policy also includes sizing requirements, etc. This can be explored as part of the Masterplan plan process. Policy and information available here (scroll down to the bottom of the web-page and expand the last header for access to the policy): https://www.hamilton.ca/animals-pets/dogs/dog-parks
7.2	Support a dog park even though doesn't own a dog.	See response to item 7.1.
7.3	Dog park brings a lot of people to the area and they will spend money in the concession street area perhaps.	See response to item 7.1.
7.4	Add exercise stations near the dog park for owners.	See response to item 7.1.
8.0 Gully		
8.1	Fill in the gully that runs between 43 rd and upper gage.	See response to item 8.2.
8.2	Concerned about the gullies getting deeper in the park. Will the Geotech look at this? Mentioned that part of how the trucking route go banned was the concern of the truck vibrations causing issues displacing the shale.	As part of the masterplan we will do a geotechnical study and conduct a stormwater drainage review. These gullies may form part of the site's drainage and we will need to explore how to redirect that water before filling it in.
9.0 Funding		
9.1	Concerns about funding and items being removed from the plans.	The funding has been secured for the masterplan process. The funding has not yet been secured for the construction of the park based on the masterplan process, but the masterplan will inform the funding requirements and timing of implementation of certain features.
10.0 Fencing		
10.1	Will the fencing be reviewed? Concerned about people access the park from below the mountain from	The fencing will be reviewed as part of the masterplan process. Note that the

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	the far east corner of the park.	Mountainbrow masterplan has fencing standards (black aluminum fencing) that are recommended for implementation along any redeveloped mountain brow trail sections.
10.2	Concerned about the fencing because it's falling apart and full of graffiti. It looks shameful and wants to see new fencing.	See response to items 10.1.
11.0	Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC)	
11.2	Noted that the Niagara escarpment natural area took up a large percentage of the park and that may restrict a lot of the ideas and where they can go. Does that also mean that lighting cannot be added to the escarpment natural area?	The percentage of Natural Area makes up approximately 25% of the park, note that some of this area is escarpment land. Permitted uses within this area include non-motorized trails, benches, picnic tables and certain heights of fences and walls. The Niagara Escarpment Commission will review and consider the inclusion of lighting within the Natural Area and the City will engage the NEC through the masterplan process. There is still opportunity in the remaining parkland area to have park amenities.
12.0	History and Views	
12.1	Love the historical plaque and would want to consider expanding upon the history of John William Kerr. Want to also have binocular stations at the lookouts to the terrific views and tie into the history of John William Kerr.	Noted. This can be considered as part of the masterplan process and Cultural Heritage Staff at the City can be engaged.

Next meeting: **Wednesday March 10th, 2021 from 6:00-8:00pm**

This report is a summary of discussions and observations, not a verbatim transcription. Please contact the Project Manager within two (2) days of receipt of this document if you wish to make any changes to the record.