



COMMENTS / QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Meeting Location:	Web-Ex Virtual Meeting	Time:	6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Project Title:	Mountain Drive Park Masterplan	Date:	July 14, 2021
Purpose:	Overview of updates, including redevelopment options and features and next steps	Date Prepared:	July 20, 2021

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

ITEM	COMMENTS/ QUESTIONS	RESPONSE
1.0	If the street is converted to a one-way, can cyclists still travel both ways?	The intent is for cyclists to use the multi-use trail. Commuter cyclists can use the one-way travelling in the direction of traffic or Concession Street. Active Transportation indicated that they are currently exploring a way to make a quiet local street near Locke that is currently a one-way street – into a two-way street for bicycles. We will continue to engage with Active Transportation and review the opportunity depending on the outcome of their findings and which option is selected for Mountain Park Avenue by the community.
2.0	Looks good, I love the plans.	Comment received.
3.0	Concern about mix of commuters and sightseer’s, not a good mix.	The intent is to widen the trail to have space for recreational cyclists, sightseeing etc. to share the area like the existing trail east of the Kenilworth circle. There are also proposed designated look-out areas separated from the trail for those who wish to stop and rest / sight-see.
4.0	With the two (2) concepts for Mountain Park Avenue – is the broader community voting on one or the other or a mix of each?	There are only the two options for the broader community to consider and vote on outside of status quo which does address goals of project.
5.0	Upon review of earlier minutes, parameters seem to have expanded to the road as opposed to just the park. How did this happen?	The trail system along Mountain Park Avenue from Upper Sherman Avenue to Concession street was always part of the masterplan. We received input from the community and task force that the desire was to improve the trail system, including widening of the trail “pinch-points” along Mountain Park Avenue for accessibility and safety. To address these needs, two options were developed for Mountain Park Avenue and have

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		thus been incorporated into the scope.
6.0	Disappointed with what was presented – typical elements that we see in all other parks, didn't step outside the box on any elements. Talked about being inclusive but no amenities for adults (concrete table tennis, basketball court, pickleball). Some artistic elements missing as well such as a mural or waterfall on the shelter. Feels that we should challenge ourselves to do something unique at this site.	<p>The park vision developed for Mountain Drive Park by the broader community and task force was to maintain the overall passive feel of the park and add one or two elements that are more active. We surveyed the community and the most desired active elements are trail system improvements and a spray pad. A multi-use court, or court of any kind was the second least desired amenity as voted by the community.</p> <p>The passive-feel and mature trees are unique to this park and add to its character as is proposing a full pedestrianization for Mountain Park Avenue. No other park has a fully pedestrianized street that forms part of the parkland. The other unique element is the proposed stair connection that aligns with the Recreational Trails Masterplan.</p> <p>For adults there are fitness stations, the trail improvements, and the open area that can be used for informal pick-up games. The spray pad is a very popular feature that is not unique to this park but is important for people who live in dense apartment buildings and rely on these types of amenities particularly during the warmer summer months for cooling.</p>
7.0	How are the people in the apartment buildings off of Mountain Park Drive going to access their parking spaces?	All the apartment buildings have accesses off Concession Street. There is only one apartment building adjacent to Upper Sherman Avenue that uses Mountain Park Avenue, in addition to Concession Street as an access and this will remain open to vehicles even with the full pedestrianization option.
8.0	Is it possible for people to purchase a bench?	<p>Yes. The City of Hamilton runs a commemorative bench program. The link is provided below for more information. Park Operations and Landscape Architectural Services can work together to determine appropriate locations and implementation timelines pending the recommendations from this Masterplan Report.</p> <p>https://www.hamilton.ca/parks-recreation/community-environmental-initiatives/commemorative-park-bench-tree-program</p>
9.0	What is the size of the spray pad? Does it also serve as an ice rink?	The approximate size on the plan is 150 square metres, but the exact size will be determined

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		<p>during detailed design.</p> <p>To clarify, the spray pad does not double as an ice rink in winter. Spray pads and ice rinks are not compatible design elements due to drainage requirements, design of upright spray elements within the spray pad area etc.</p> <p>Installing artificial ice rinks is very expensive and thus targeted for larger city-wide parks that have the additional amenities to support artificial ice rinks, such as larger parking areas, a larger building to house the cooling system, washrooms and change areas etc.</p>
10.0	Can the ice rink be added in the future?	<p>An artificial ice rink is not planned for Mountain Drive Park. One option is to provide a hose bib in the washroom building to allow the community to flood a flat grassed area in the winter. We will flag this to Facilities staff to determine if this can be included in their washroom building upgrades budget.</p>
11.0	Is anything proposed west of Upper Sherman Avenue?	<p>Not as part of this Masterplan scope. There are trail improvements and road upgrades planned as part of future works by Asset Management west of Upper Sherman Avenue to Upper Wentworth Street in 2022.</p>
12.0	<p>The road conversion - How much is the trail project driving this part of the plan? Is status quo still an option and still achieve the objective of continuing the trail? Is so, it would avoid the dramatic change proposed? Thinks status quo should be included as an option.</p>	<p>Improving accessibility and safety for the trail section along Mountain Park Avenue is the main driver for the proposed road options. The trail serves predominantly for recreational purposes but could also serve a functional purpose for some users. According to the Accessibility Standard for the Design of Public Spaces 1.5 metres is the minimum clear width for sidewalks and walkways that serve a functional purpose, and 1.0 metres is the minimum clear width for recreational trails. The optimal clear width is 1.8 metres wide for wheelchair users to comfortably pass.</p> <p>Maintaining the status quo does not allow the trail to be widened at the pinch-points, one of which measures under 1.0 metres wide. Status quo would be an opportunity lost as far as inclusivity is concerned.</p> <p>Image of pinch point shown below:</p>

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13.0	Have any of the property owners along that stretch been involved in the discussions as a stakeholder?	To-date we have consulting with Juravinski Hospital, Hamilton Fire, Hamilton Police, Hamilton Paramedics and roadway traffic, safety and operations. We will engage property owners as a next step as part of the mail drop and survey.
14.0	What is the “mandate” driving the need to change the street?	When using the term “mandate” we were referring to the overall goals and objectives identified by the community. That being to improve the trail system that runs along the brow and to enhance accessibility and create a space that is inclusive. In regard to legislation, the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) enacted in 2005, governs the design of public spaces and has minimum clear widths for pathways and walkways as described in item 12.0.
15.0	<p>Glad that paths are being widened / made accessible. If we do close off the road, are we able to make improvement to Upper Sherman? Specifically making the stop sign larger.</p> <p>Believe that we should be open to looking at these innovative ideas.</p>	We will flag the signage concern / markings to Traffic Operation and Roadway Safety and identify it as part of the masterplan pending the redevelopment option selected for Mountain Park Avenue.
16.0	Comment regarding the pinch points along Mountain Park Avenue: Everyday I see people taking dogs and strollers on the road – they are really dangerous. From a safety perspective I support the widening of the path to make them safe and accessible.	Comment received.
17.0	Comment about putting in additional pathways in the park: I see seniors walking the same stretch back and forth so adding more pathways will give a lot more opportunities for seniors.	Comment received.

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18.0	Comment regarding the redevelopment options presented for Mountain Park Avenue (i.e. one-way conversion or full pedestrianization): I live in one of the buildings adjacent to the park – general consensus is that the one way would be a sufficient option.	Comment received.
19.0	Are more benches going to be added than those that are currently in the park and which way will the benches face? Into the park or out to the view?	<p>We will be adding benches on concrete bench pads along all the pathways and around the “active area” with the playground / spray pad. There will also be a clear space provided for those in wheelchairs, strollers etc.</p> <p>We can flip some of the benches along the northern pathway within the “park proper” to face internally into the park where there is sufficient width between the escarpment and the pathway.</p> <p>The benches along Mountain Park Avenue that are not within the “park proper” will remain facing the view.</p>
20.0	Will there be a drinking fountain?	There will be a drinking fountain attached to the outside of the washroom building. There is potential to add a drinking fountain along the trail within the park proper near the proposed stair case that would have a water bottle filler, a standard bubbler and a dog bowl.
21.0	Thank you to the task force and to staff on the project. What we have come up with to date is really spectacular!	Comment received.
22.0	Historically there was a volunteer group (through Recreation) running an ice rink program.	Staff will follow up with Facilities about the possibility for providing a house bib to support this program.
23.0	Would solar panel lights be the hope or will there be options? Are we trying to emulate what’s east of the circle?	The lights for the “mountainbrow” pathway would emulate the solar lights east of the circle. The only caveat being where mature trees make the option of solar lights / panels non-viable. We would still match the design aesthetic of the solar lights however wherever this is the case.

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24.0	There are active areas that are away from the central active area. Why?	The fitness stations are slightly more offset from the main active area with the playground and spray pad. The reason being that, fitness areas are well suited to being located along circuitous pathways and adjacent to trail systems. It also allows the trail system users to access the fitness area without having to navigate through the more active areas with children.
25.0	Will we be able to meet in person given we're moving into stage 3?	Staff have to defer to the Emergency Operating Center (EOC) and will follow the direction given at the time.
26.0	Has there been an increase in tents going up in parks across the City (to Councillor Jackson)? If so, what is the City doing?	Last year two (2) tents appeared and the Councillor worked with the 'unsheltered team' and within two weeks those two individuals were found apartments to live in. We will do our best to find appropriate housing for any other homeless individuals who may set up in the park in the future.
27.0	Can you share the Eastmount Park concept for context?	Eastmount is in the initial stages of information gathering and generating ideas. Once a city webpage has been established, we can share the link with the task force.
28.0	Is it more of a menu of options? Or is there a full-scale proposal, a moderate proposal and a small option?	<p>There is one development option for the main park area, that the community is welcome to comment on. The amenities however are set.</p> <p>There are two development options for the trail improvements along Mountain Park Avenue with the intent of improving accessibility and safety. The community will be surveyed and given the opportunity to select their preferred option.</p>
29.0	What is the budget outline as it relates to what is being proposed?	<p>We will be developing more detailed budgets based on the final development plan selected by the community and will be using a phased-based approach for implementation.</p> <p>Facilities is proposing 2022 for addressing the washroom building and Landscape Architectural Services will include in future capital budget requests based on the priorities selected by the community in the next survey.</p> <p>The construction of all of the amenities shown will be phased out over several years and some, like the stair connection, may require funding from outside sources, such as from grants offered by the Federal / Provincial governments.</p>

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30.0	<p>A few thoughts on the pedestrianization of Mountain Park Avenue: how lovely it would be for the patients and families at Juravinski to have this greater space to use to get a fresh perspective and break from the hospital. How if the road was closed, the amount of use by runners, skateboarders, roller-bladders would be high. The neighbourhood could have road chalk design competitions; I think the apartment dwellers along that stretch of the brow would end up making proper gateways to the pedestrian way to take better advantage of it. It's kind of endless the possibilities out there. The apartments could host a street garage sale.</p> <p>I think just the ability to try so many new things in that space make is worth having and that section of road really is very lightly used. Maybe, food trucks could come once or twice a year, etc. It would be a pretty unique and spectacular public space in of itself.</p>	Comment received.
31.0	<p>It is a very worthwhile idea exploring the pedestrianization of Mountain Park Avenue for the enhanced experience of the many different types of users. The potential for festivals is an exciting idea - especially if that section is already designated pedestrian / cyclist only - no closing down of the street would even be required.</p>	Comment received.
32.0	<p>Just wanted to follow up regarding the scope of this project and ask for clarification as it relates to the proposed change to the roadway.</p> <p>As per the initial prospectus which does not include any mention of a change to the roadway and only references the 10 acre park, I have attached the pdf for comment and discussion.</p>	<p>The prospectus was prepared by the ward Councillor offices at the project launching and notes that the items listed are potentials only and that the masterplan may or may not include the items listed and that amenities had not been finalized. It is difficult to predict every item and the full extent of those items until the masterplan process actually starts and we begin to receive feedback from the community.</p> <p>See response to items #12 and #14 for further clarification.</p>

Next meeting: **Wednesday November 3rd, 2021 from 6:00-8:00pm**, Please contact the Project Manager within two (2) days of receipt of this document if you wish to make any changes to the record.