

## Carter Park Spray Pad and Playground Renewal Survey: Summary of Responses to Questions 5 and 10

### Question 5: Are there members of your household who identify as having a disability? If yes, are there enhancements that could be considered for the new park features to encourage park use?

*Survey comments have been summarized and categorized based on their subject matter.*

Survey Responses	Staff Acknowledgement
<b>Spray Pad</b>	
Feedback included creating a larger and more interesting spray pad and play structure combination like Durand Park, as well as designing the spray pad to contain slower flowing elements that are lower to the ground for younger children and children with mobility devices. Eastwood Park was referenced as a good example.	<p>The goal is to include two different zones in the spray pad design with a contemplative zone (more tactile, exploratory, and lower flow elements) as well as an immersive zone (interactive, controllable, and bigger splash elements) to accommodate different play preferences / ages. A second survey will be issued to the public including a question about preferred spray elements.</p> <p>Eastwood Park is a community park with a larger park area, and Carter Park is a smaller neighbourhood park with limited space due to the mature trees and existing elements; however, providing ample space for mobility devices within and around the spray pad will be prioritized and all AODA requirements will be met. Please note that Durand Park is a neighbourhood park with a playground and spray pad more comparable to Carter Park.</p>
<b>Playground</b>	
Feedback included incorporating swings that allow a parent and their child to swing together, more accessible swings, a swing for wheelchairs and different styles of swings. Feedback also included incorporating sensory engagement items like	A variety of swings will be assessed to include in the design. Staff have noted that elements like musical panels, communication boards and ASL signs are desired by the community and a second survey will be issued to the public with a question focusing on preferred accessible play elements.

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musical elements, spinning chairs, communication boards, ASL signage and varied climbing options.	
<b>Pathways and Surfacing</b>	
Feedback included incorporating level paths with sturdy pavement and using rubber surfacing or turf instead of woodchips so children with medically required walkers and wheelchairs can get around.	The playground surface and pathways will meet AODA requirements. Staff have noted that rubber surfacing is preferred to mulch surfacing, an effort will be made to accommodate rubber surfacing in the design.
<b>Fencing</b>	
Feedback included the need for fencing around the spray pad to prevent children from running on the road.	The need for fencing will be analyzed and dependent on the location of the new spray pad and playground, and proximity to the road. If the spray pad cannot be shifted away from the road, fencing or a barrier around the spray pad will be included in the new design.
<b>Seating</b>	
Feedback included the desire for more seating and picnic tables.	More seating with picnic tables / eating areas will be provided.
<b>Parking</b>	
Feedback included the desire for more parking.	The addition of a parking lot is not within the project scope and would not fit within the park boundary due to the existing elements and mature trees.
<b>Drinking Fountains</b>	
Feedback included the desire for more water fountains including a dog bowl (service animals were noted).	Noted, staff will review options.

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### Question 10: Do you have any other ideas for enhancements to the new spray pad and new playground?

*Survey comments have been summarized and categorized based on their subject matter.*

Survey Comments	Staff Responses
<b>General Park Layout</b>	
<p>Feedback included locating the spray and play elements closer together so parents can view their kids doing different activities within the park at the same time, like Durand Park. There were several comments to locate the swings closer together and to improve the pathways and circulation.</p> <p>Feedback also included switching the current playground with the gazebo area while keeping swings where they are, addressing the Young Street side of the park to make the play area feel more visible, maintaining grassy hill areas for easy natural play for kids of all ages and adding more garbage cans.</p>	<p>An analysis of the existing elements within the park (existing trees, existing features to remain, servicing, etc.) will be completed to determine the best location for the new spray pad and playground, with the goal of placing them close together and not spread apart as desired by most survey responders. Pedestrian circulation between the spray and play elements will be improved, and garbage cans will be located close to the play elements. A second survey will be issued to the public including a question about preferred park layout based on two concepts. Please note that Durand Park is a neighbourhood park with a playground and spray pad similar in scale to Carter Park.</p>
<b>Fencing and Barriers</b>	
<p>There were several comments to add a fence with gate around the spray pad to keep children away from the road. One comment indicated this is only necessary if the spray pad cannot be relocated away from the road.</p>	<p>The need for fencing will be analyzed and dependent on the location of the new spray pad and playground, and proximity to the road. If the spray pad cannot be shifted away from the road, fencing or a barrier around the spray pad will be included in the new design.</p>
<b>Spray Pad: Overall Design and Spray Elements</b>	
<p>Feedback included increasing the size of the spray pad and adding more exciting sprayers for varying ages. Several comments requested elements children can run through, controllable water sprayers, spiral misting sprayers and interactive elements. A few comments requested a misting station for people of all ages.</p>	<p>The goal is to include two different zones in the spray pad design with a contemplative zone (more tactile, exploratory, and lower flow elements) as well as an immersive zone (interactive, controllable, and bigger splash elements) to accommodate different play preferences / ages. A second survey will be issued to the public including a question about preferred spray elements.</p>

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<p>William Connell Park, Pier 4 Park, Gage Park, Dundas Driving Park and Victoria Park were all noted as good examples of spray pads with varying elements.</p> <p>Feedback also included adding partially covered seating to the spray pad like the William Connell Park spray pad and to consider adding a wading pool.</p>	<p>Please note that William Connell Park, Pier 4 Park, Gage Park and Dundas Driving Park are all classified as city-wide parks with more space than Carter Park, which is a neighbourhood park with more limited space. Victoria Park is classified as a community park.</p> <p>A wading pool is not within the scope of work for this project. Please be advised the City of Hamilton has an initiative to convert wading pools to spray pads when they are up for renewal as per Hamilton's Park Master Plan, linked below.  <a href="#">masterplansstudies-Hamilton-Parks-Master-Plan.pdf</a></p>
<b>Playground: Overall Design Suggestions</b>	
<p>Several comments indicated the playground area should be 'bigger and better' as there are many kids in the area, as well as creating a bright and colourful playground that brings the community together through play. There were several requests to add challenging equipment for older kids to promote active play.</p> <p>Feedback also included adding multiple activity stations in case the park is busy/crowded, adding creative multi-level play structures, and using materials that are going to last a long time and not easily tarnish.</p>	<p>The goal is to include a combination of junior and senior play elements in separate play structures as desired by the community per the survey results. A variety of play features will be included to maximize play value for all ages, including more challenging equipment for older children. A second survey will be issued to the public including questions about preferred playground layout, preferred play elements, preferred theming and preferred colours.</p>
<b>Playground: Play Elements Suggestions</b>	
<p>The following play elements were suggested to include in the new playground:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rock climbing feature</li> <li>• Monkey bars</li> <li>• Bigger slides</li> <li>• Natural elements / wood materials</li> <li>• Swings for all ages and abilities</li> <li>• Sensory play for toddlers</li> </ul>	<p>These play elements have been noted to help inform the sizing of the playground area(s), keeping in mind this is an existing neighborhood park with several constraints including the existing mature trees and other park features. Please note that zip-lines are generally better suited to city-wide parks. A second survey will be issued to the public including questions related to preferred playground layout, preferred play elements, preferred theming and preferred colours.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Musical play</li> <li>• Tree house style feature</li> <li>• Stage area</li> <li>• Zip line</li> <li>• Scavenger hunt elements</li> <li>• Different level platforms</li> <li>• Four square area</li> <li>• Adult fitness equipment</li> </ul> <p>Feedback also included choosing more unique elements that are different from surrounding parks and slides that don't retain heat.</p>	
<b>Playground: Accessibility</b>	
There were several comments about adding playground equipment and features designed to be used by children with disabilities including standalone items and hands on interactive elements for the children that don't have the ability to climb a play structure.	The playground will include play elements for children with all abilities. A second survey will be issued to the public with a question about preferred accessible play elements.
<b>Playground: Surfacing</b>	
There were several comments noting rubber play surfacing is preferred to mulch.	An effort will be made to accommodate rubber surfacing in the design.
<b>Seating</b>	
There were several requests for more picnic tables and seating in shade close to the play areas.	More seating with picnic tables / eating areas will be provided.
<b>Shade</b>	
There were several comments noting the importance of shade, especially around the play elements.	It is clear from the survey responses that shade is greatly valued by the community, and staff recognizes that climate change is continuing to result in very hot summers. An effort will be made to place play elements within existing shady areas in the park and to add new shade elements where possible for a thermally comfortable space.

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<b>Bike Parking</b>	
There was a comment to add bike parking near the playground.	This has been noted by staff. The existing bike parking spaces will be replaced, and the need for more will be evaluated.
<b>Trees &amp; Planting</b>	
Feedback included adding more trees and plants. There was a suggestion to include a native pollinator garden with signage and interactive elements (like QR codes) to help children / families learn about nature including a small water feature for wildlife. There was also a comment encouraging the removal of invasive species within the park.	There will be consideration for more trees, planting beds and a pollinator garden. Invasive species removal and management is not within the project scope. For more information regarding invasive species management, please see Hamilton's Biodiversity Action Plan (2024), linked below. <a href="#">Appendix "A" to Report PED21065(d)/PW24040</a>
<b>Community Garden</b>	
There were a few comments regarding upgrading the existing community garden space.	Upgrading the community garden space is not within the project scope at this time; please contact Hamilton's Community Garden Network linked below. <a href="#">Community Garden Networking Program   Neighbour to Neighbour Centre</a>
<b>Drinking Fountains</b>	
There were a few comments to include an additional drinking fountain with water bottle refill and dog bowl.	Noted, staff will review options.
<b>Washrooms</b>	
There were several comments to add public washrooms to the park.	While adding washrooms is not part of the project scope, it will be considered as part of future park improvements.
<b>Park Safety &amp; Maintenance</b>	
There were some concerns with the park's safety including comments regarding regular by-law enforcement to ensure the space is safe and comfortable for everyone. Feedback also included the suggestion to add more robust architectural elements, to relocate the sharps container away from the play areas and add no-smoking signage. There were some comments regarding more regular park maintenance of the pathways and garbage.	The suggestions to relocate the sharps bin, add no-smoking signage and ensure regular park maintenance has been sent to Hamilton's Park Operations department.  Please refer to Hamilton's Preventing and Ending Homelessness Strategy and Encampment Protocol, linked below, for contact information regarding park safety concerns. <a href="#">Hamilton's Homelessness Ending Strategy   City of Hamilton</a>

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	<a href="#">City of Hamilton Encampment Protocol</a>   <a href="#">City of Hamilton</a>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
Concern about spray pad water running when not in use.	The new spray pad will be controlled by a push button activated by park users and will run in a pre-determined sequence.
Request to bring back the Supie program to the park.	This comment has been sent to Hamilton's Recreation department as they are responsible for the supie program.
Note to add nature inspired art installations within the park.	This comment has been sent to Hamilton's Public Art department as they are responsible for public art initiatives.
Note to add an art mural on the maintenance building.	Noted, staff will review options.
Note that the ice rink is an important feature.	The area for the ice rink will remain as it is.
Comments to add traffic calming measures.	Out of project scope.
Comment regarding biking routes outside of the park area.	Out of project scope.
Request for food trucks and ice cream vendors.	Out of project scope.
Add art installations under the bridge.	Out of project scope.
Add pickleball court, pump track and pool.	Out of project scope.