Public Works
Environment and Sustainable Infrastructure

Olmstead Site

October 19, 2011

Providing services that bring our City to life!
Olmstead Site Open Space

Public Information Centre

• Introductions
• Topics for discussion
  • Park Planning
  • Archaeological Studies
  • Plans for the property
• Question & Answer period
Ryckman’s Neighbourhood Planning – Heather Travis

• The Olmstead site is designated as “Open Space” in the Council-approved Urban Hamilton Official Plan document.

• Open Space:
  – “…provide health, environmental, aesthetic and economic benefits that are essential elements for a good quality of life in our community.”
  – “…intended to be preserved in their natural state. Where appropriate, limited recreational activities/uses may be permitted including trails, picnic areas, forest management, and conservation management.” Official Plan pB.3

• Parkland:
  – “Wherever possible, parks shall be linked with other open space lands…”
  – “Neighbourhood Parks primarily cater to the recreational needs and interests of the residents living within the general vicinity…containing a mixture of passive areas, sports facilities, informal and formal play areas…” Official Plan pB3.
Ryckman’s Neighbourhood Parkland
Olmstead Site Archaeology – Joseph Muller

• History of the Site – City involvement
Olmstead Site
Update and Timelines

• At Present:
  – Stage 4 Archaeology completed for pathway
  – Survey complete

• Future Plans:
  – Complete the designs and tender for the walkway creation (Winter 2012)
  – Prepare the plans for the establishment of vegetation on the site (Winter 2012)
  – Complete the vegetation establishment (Summer/Fall 2012)

• Long-term Plans:
  – Complete the connection to the Ryckman’s Park
Olmstead Site
1989 City of Hamilton Plans

- Walkway connecting DiCenzo Dr. to Teramo Ct. and Tevere Pl.
- Plantings
- No play area or formal park amenities
- Recognition that this will be an “open space”
Olmstead Site – Proposed Plan
Olmstead Site
Prairie Restoration

• Why are Prairies endangered/important?
  – Role of prairies
    • Habitat
    • Species diversity
    • biomass
  – Pollinators
    • Hummingbird and bees
    • Type of pollen - allergies
  – Ecology of prairies
    • Climax community
    • Soil interactions
Olmstead Site
Prairie versus Meadow

• What is the difference?
• Prairie versus Meadow
  – Disturbance factors
  – Species
  – Succession

• Terminology
  – Native versus Naturalized
  – Tallgrass
Olmstead Site
Prairie Restoration

• What is a Native Tallgrass Prairie?
Olmstead Site - Tallgrass Prairie Plants

Prairie Smoke – Blazing Star – Bottlebrush Grass – Indian Grass
Big Bluestem – Woodland Sunflower – Bee Balm
Olmstead Site - Meadow Plants

(Clockwise from top left)
- Purple Coneflower
- Verbena
- Heath Aster
- Tall Cinquefoil
- Butterfly Milkweed
- New England Aster

Meadow - Asters, goldenrods, verbena, Black-eyed susans, grasses
Questions?