

SUMMARY OF GROUP DISCUSSIONS:

**Methodology:**

Following a brief introduction to the project and site conditions, 6 discussion groups of 6 to 8 residents were formed to talk about issues, ideas and concerns over an aerial photo of the park site. The groups were given 36 minutes of discussion time with staff moving from table to table offering direction and guidance. At the conclusion of the session, each group was allowed a brief 2 to 3 minute presentation of their discussion points/findings by team leaders. Their comments were then collected and written down as follows:

Group 1:

- Develop a heritage theme – lights and wrought iron fence along Herkimer;
- Formalize access paths – but minimal paving;
- Benches and garbage receptacles in-line with heritage theme;
- Pathways to be accessible and conducive to walkers;
- Birdhouses;
- Bocce and croquet play area;
- Gazebo/storage structure to be located behind 83 + 85 Charlton Avenue;
- Interpretative plaques depicting the park and neighbourhood;
- Chess table.

Group 2:

- “Keep It Natural”;
- No major changes to the park;
- Formalize desire lines as pathways – permeable pavement;
- Repair grading and drainage at the ice rink location;
- More picnic tables at treed areas;
- Create a conversational seating area at the berm by the corner of Charlton and Park – with a sun shelter;
- Park entrances at Park and Herkimer, and Park and Charlton to display salvaged architectural elements from the “Thistle Club”;

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- No dog park;
- Suggest using boxwood hedging along Herkimer instead of a fence.

Group 3:

- Maintain quiet location in the existing treed area along Charlton;
- Suggest building rubberized path surface for walker access;
- “Translucent” canopy structure at the playground area;
- Painted crosswalks to the park’s corners;
- Reduction of posted speed limits in the park zone;
- Maintain open green space along Herkimer for free play;
- Reinstate water drinking fountain;
- New spray pad at children play area;
- No dog park – however, introduce bag dispensers for Poop and Scoop;
- Lighting in the park;
- More picnic tables and garbage cans;
- 2 bicycle racks;
- Butterfly garden at the berm on Charlton and Park with Durand Stone location.

Group 4:

- BIXI Bike sharing program;
- Maintain “desire line” path access through the park;
- Repair grading and drainage in the park;
- No dog park;
- Pedestrian/car safety issues – “Herkimer Race Track”
  - reduce speed posting to 30km/hr.
  - painted crosswalks and introduce traffic calming measures
  - reduce car lane and “grow the park”

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- No tree removals unless replacements are required – there is a “good balance” right now;
- Public garden allotments;
- More picnic tables and garbage cans;
- Develop conversational seating arrangements – example @ Burlington City Hall;
- Birdhouses.

Group 5:

- Design to the demographics of the neighbourhood;
- Spray pad;
- Formalize existing pathway;
- All trees to remain – add flowering trees;
- Reduce playground area – as the neighbourhood is primarily adults;
- Create dog-run in the treed area along Charlton;
- Fence along Herkimer;
- More picnic tables and chess table;
- Maintain passive area and conversational seating space;
- Pedestrian/car safety issues;
- Public art/sculpture area.

Group 6:

- Keep the Park “As It Is”;
- Repair grading and drainage – especially at ice rink location;
- Use “desire line” pathway and formalize with screening surface;
- Keep all the berms and build them larger with shallower slopes to allow for grass cutting;
- Introduce Wi-Fi in the park (just like in Toronto);
- Chess table;
- Make sure new park elements are vandal resistant;

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- Use benches along Herkimer as “barrier”, not fencing;
- Additional signage along Charlton and Herkimer – “Park Area – Slow Down”;
- Light in the park;
- Crosswalk at Herkimer corner of Park;
- Plant flowering trees;
- Park entrances at Park and Herkimer, and Park and Charlton to display salvaged architectural elements from the “Thistle Club”;