



Hamilton

Hamilton City Centre
77 James Street North, Suite 320
Hamilton, ON L8R 2K3
www.hamilton.ca

Environmental Services Division, Public Works
Phone: 905.546.2424 ext. 2289 Fax: 905.546.4435
Email: ken.wheaton@hamilton.ca

July 7, 2020

Churchill Park Redevelopment Phase 2 – Online Public Information Centre June 25th 8:00-9:00pm

Question and Answers

On June 25, 2020 an online Public Information Centre (PIC) was held by Councillor Wilson's office. Staff from Landscape Architectural Services presented a concept plan for Phase 2 walkway and rain garden work. The following is a summary of questions, answers and related comments from the meeting.

Q&A:

Question 1:

Are the "grass swales" around the fields going to be mowed or left uncut?

Answer:

Grassed swales around the fields will be mown. Rain gardens will be planted with native species and will naturalize, consistent with the masterplan objectives for biodiversity, habitat creation and ecological sustainability.

Question 2:

Re massive city debt. How much does this cost?

Answer:

The City has \$600,000.00 existing funds for the construction of Phase 2. The concept plan shows the extent of anticipated work subject to tender costing.

Question 3:

There is a Lyme disease health concern with ticks in the un-mowed grass in the dry "rain gardens". These are dry and doing their job whether the grass is long or short. Could we please have the grass cut to mitigate the health risk? People have been seen in these spaces with the long grass. These spaces are not part of the escarpment natural zone, but they are part of the development zone.

Comment: They are part of the development zone and should be mown. It doesn't say in the 151-page Management Plan that they would not be mowed.

Comment: The rain garden spaces are not part of the natural zone.

Comment: We need an expert in Lyme disease though.

Answer:

The Management Plan outlines various levels of development within the 'development zone'. This includes drainage as outlined in Section 8.3 of the Management Plan. References to low impact development and natural swales can be seen on page 62 of the Management Plan. As part of the stormwater management strategy within the development zone, the Rain Gardens and vegetated filter strips were planted with species that promote biodiversity as well as filter the stormwater. These areas require periodic maintenance but are intended to naturalize without mowing to perform at their peak efficiency.

Hamilton is considered a risk area for Lyme disease. While Hamilton is identified as a risk area, the overall risk of human infection from Lyme disease in Hamilton remains low.

Lyme disease spreads through bites from an infected tick (not all ticks are infected). However, even with a bite from an infected tick, there is only a small chance of getting Lyme disease. Tick bites are usually painless. In most cases, ticks must be actively attached and feeding for more than 24 hours to transmit the bacterium.

The Master Plan (available at www.hamilton.ca/churchillpark) - outlines the various forms rain gardens can take. Rain gardens at Churchill Park are planted with native wildflower and grass mixes that will naturalize and help improve biodiversity and sustainability.

Please visit <https://www.hamilton.ca/public-health/health-topics/lyme-disease-ticks> for more information on ways to protect yourself against Lyme Disease.

Concerned parties are encouraged to follow-up with Public Health directly as they are the experts on staff.

Question 4:

Why is there fencing along the path next to the trees along Parkside Drive?

Comment: In the final plan there is a fence along the big trees.

Answer:

The dashed lines along the path next to the trees on Parkside Drive is tree protection fencing. This will be temporary during construction.

Question 5:

Is there a possibility to have a pathway connection from the path system to the school yard?

Comment: The school has a path to nowhere to connect to.

Answer:

Pathway connections in this area are identified as future phases. Connections to the school yard will be explored in conjunction with the school board during a future phase.

Question 6:

What recommendations from the Churchill Park Stormwater Management Plan were implemented? Seems that many of the LID recs have not been implemented, why?

Answer:

LID is a broad concept with many solutions to achieve a desired result. Section 8.4 of the Management Plan states that the final locations, surface area and quantities of bioretention areas (Rain Gardens) will be determined during detailed design. The Stormwater Management Plan was reviewed by the Phase 1 project Engineers and the Phase 1 rain garden design was determined to be the most effective solution to mitigate neighbourhood flooding and manage stormwater within the park.

The Rain gardens have a vast below-grade gravel storage area for stormwater. Dry ponds help slow the water and filter it before entering the rain gardens, and vegetated filter strips along Parkside Drive allow runoff into the stormwater management system.

Question 7:

The trails will invite biking (which is good) - will the trail heads at Franklin, Norwood, and also Devon be constructed so there is easy access from the streets for bikes, also for strollers etc? Right now, the access to the gravel trail at Devon is not bike or stroller friendly.

Comment: Will crosswalks be out in near park entrances - "built" near... just for consideration?

Answer:

Depressed curbs or sidewalk connections will be provided in areas where there are safe pedestrian crossovers (PXOs). There is a curb depression at the washroom building on Parkside Drive. Users can access the granular trails by travelling up the ramp to the gravel path near the north baseball diamond.

Question 8:

Would it make sense, given our current state of COVID existence, to make all the paths fit the wider measurements, instead of some being wider and some narrower?

Comment: There is not room next to the senior soccer field for a wider path.

Comment: During the public consultations there were many people who didn't want any pathways at all. Having some narrower, smaller impact pathways was part of a compromise.

Answer:

Walkway sizes have been outlined in the Management Plan and Master Plans as a result of extensive public consultations. In certain areas of the park, spatial constraints due to ravine setbacks or sports field buffers have also impacted walkway widths and alignments.

Question 9:

Have you considered how close the path is to the senior soccer field? It seems there will be less than a few meters between the edge of the soccer field and the path. The path is very close on side along the forest where the teams and coaches usual sit.

Comment: am worried that walkers are going to get hurt by stray balls too!

Comment: I have measured the field just today. It is VERY tight to the edge of the forest.

Comment: Please consult with the West Hamilton Youth Soccer Club (WHYSC) executive to make sure that the soccer fields are properly accommodated and do not endanger walkers.

Answer:

The senior soccer field in question has existing spatial constraints. The proposed 1.5 m wide walkway must satisfy setbacks from both the soccer pitch and a 15m ravine setback. While it is impossible to satisfy both setbacks, the City has reviewed options with the Royal Botanical Gardens. The RBG will be removing some scrubby bushes in this area, allowing the walkway to shift roughly 3m closer to the forest edge than is shown on the concept plan. This option brings the path tight to the ravine setback and will be reviewed by the Hamilton Conservation Authority during the approvals process. The proposal for routing the path through the forest encroaches the 15m ravine setback and therefore is not an option that will get the approvals necessary for the project. The City will work with the RBG and WHYSC to ensure the walkway and soccer field are as far away from each other as possible.

Question 10:

For environmental concerns will you only buy plants that do not come in single use black plastic. These end up in landfills forever. Also having lived on Parkview for 25 years we have never seen water run over from the park to the road to storm sewers.

Comment: The procurement practice should be updated. The City should have the ability to add sustainability requirements or other specifications that streamline their processes or contribute to their value statements.

Answer:

The City's Procurement Section is looking into how to add sustainability requirements to their contracts.

Question 11 (post-meeting):

With the loss of open fields next to Marion there is less space for unstructured play at Churchill. The multi-use space sees significant use by different groups of people. The current irregular shape of the walking path and location of grass swales and rain gardens as currently planned would eliminate the possibility of an additional full-sized soccer field in the space in the future. It would also force multiple groups simultaneously using the space into a significantly smaller area. Would you consider modifying the design so that in the future a full regulation size soccer field could fit in the space while providing space for spectators, players and coaches with reasonable setbacks? The game of soccer is only increasing in popularity and landscaping the park in such a way that a regulation field will not fit in the space in the future would be short sighted.

Answer:

We assume the multi-use field in question refers to the existing cricket pitch area in the north end of the park. this area has historically poor drainage. Through the Management Plan and Master Plan process, it was determined that this space be converted to a multi-use space. Multi-use is a loose term meaning many different activities can be played in this space. A soccer field was not part of the master plan direction in this area however, small pick-up games of soccer would be considered a possible use within the 'multi-use' area designation