HAMILTON AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION GROUNDS | RENEWAL PLAN | JUNE 2021

PUBLIC MEETING
JUNE 17 & 19 2021
“The City of Hamilton is situated upon the traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas. This land is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, which was an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabek to share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. We further acknowledge that this land is covered by the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792, between the Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

Today, the City of Hamilton is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island (North America) and we recognize that we must do more to learn about the rich history of this land so that we can better understand our roles as residents, neighbours, partners and caretakers.”
Maureen Wilson, Ward 1 Councillor

Stephanie Hilson – Ward 1 Office

Wes Kindree - City of Hamilton, Public Works, Landscape Architectural Services (LAS)

Consultant - OMC Landscape Architecture
Marianne Mokrycke - Landscape Architect
Patty Lynes - Landscape Architect
Lesia Mokrycke – Landscape Designer (zoom background)
• Welcome (MW)
• Land Acknowledgement (MW)
• Introductions
• Overview on how to interact through Zoom (SH)
• Presentation (WK and MM)
• Engagement Options (WK)
• Q&A Period (ALL)
USING ZOOM Q&A and UPVOTE FEATURES

Hover over bottom of screen – this menu should pop up

Select Q&A, a new small pop-up screen should appear
Enter question and hit send

If you see a question that is similar to the one you were thinking about or that you agree is important - select the thumbs up to upvote to the top of the question list
Introduction

Landscape Architectural Services (LAS) alongside the Ward 1 office is developing a Renewal Plan of the HAAA Grounds. The park's current features are reaching the end of their service life, and to ensure the community can continue to enjoy the HAAA Grounds, these aging park features need to be replaced.

The Renewal Plan process is used to develop an overall park concept that staff will use to plan future park upgrades in a phased, multi-year approach. The concept level focuses on things like location of features, the relationship among them, accessibility, inclusion, overall usage and sustainability. What the concept level does not do is to focus on the specific details of those features as though will be developed in a later stage.

During the Renewal Plan process we are looking to hear from community members who are the users of the park, and who have real life experiences and connections with the HAAA Grounds.
A design project goes through several phases

1. **CONCEPT**
   - Focuses on ideas and relationships
   - Introduces park features
   - Generic placeholders & defining areas
   - Presents overall vision

2. **DETAIL DESIGN**
   - Very detailed
   - Specific equipment
   - Based on the concept with possible variations, but keeps with vision
   - Meet site, AODA & CSA requirements

**INTENT**

**CONCEPT vs DETAIL DESIGN**

**CONCEPT**
- Focuses on ideas and relationships
- Introduces park features
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**DETAIL DESIGN**
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- Specific equipment
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**DIVERSITY & INCLUSION**
- **SAFETY**
- **GREEN SPACE**
- **EQUITY**
- **HUMAN HEALTH**
To ensure the Renewal Plan is successful, WE NEED YOUR HELP.

The Renewal Plan process will be best executed in a collaborative effort between city staff and the HAAA Grounds community.

The Renewal Plan process includes:

Public Information Centres (PIC)
Opportunity for community feedback through project specific online tools.
Summarizing that community feedback.
Prepare concept plans and a final Renewal Plan.
Detailed design and construction in a multi-year, phased approach.
TIMELINE

WE ARE HERE
PRESENT CONCEPTS

PIC 1
Feb 4, 6

PIC 2
June

PIC 3
Sept

PRESENT FINAL
RENEWAL PLAN

PHASE 1
FOCUSED
ENGAGEMENT

Concept Development
Renewal Plan
Development

Q&A
Online Survey
Engagement Tool

Idea Share

ENGAGE HAMILTON Community Feedback
WHAT WE HEARD

Q&A

Is there any consideration for a designated dog area so it keeps them off the grass that kids use for school and sports?

Could you consider any of the following features... bottle refill station for park users, consider spaces that can be used for hockey rink so space is used all year round, two mini soccer field in the track?

Can the whole park plan favor a diversity of activities (such as basketball, track, tennis, seating, etc.) for all ages, rather than spend its budget on expensive spray pad features?

Would it be possible to redesign the pathways so that cyclists could come through the park, on their way from Kent St to Pearl St, without interfering with others using the park? It would help connect the existing bike lanes on Herkimer and Charlton, and Kent St (and the escarpment), with Pearl St, which can lead to the main corridor along King and Main.

Is there opportunity for a community garden (vegetables). Similar to the one at Hill Street?

Has the option of making a multi-use track been considered? A track that can be utilized for running/walking in warmer weather and a skating oval in the winter. A cooled base would be important as well as a zamboni housed on site.
A survey consisting of thirty questions was made available online on the City’s website from February 1 to March 1, 2021.

128 responses were received. We learned that the majority of the respondents lived within walking distance to the park. The most used amenities are the walking track, green space and pathways while additional amenities desired include shade structures, pathway lighting and exercise equipment.

The excerpts on this page are examples of responses to the survey, which helped in developing the conceptual options for the park. The first two are related to ages of users, the second two were responses to the future design of the track.
425 ideas were posted in the form of images and sketches that were provided as inspiration toward the renewal of the park.

Students from Lyonsgate School drew their ideas, some of which included a rock climbing wall, sandbox, glow in the dark slide, video game wall, zip line, big slide, outdoor pool, outdoor bowling, gymnastics bars and recycling bins.
This interactive tool provided the opportunity to present ideas and comments visually. There were over ninety contributions with ideas that included a shade structure with power outlets, upgraded multi-use court, enhanced garden entrance, multi-purpose courtyard, modernized spray pad and solar USB charging stations.

The comments were broadly based and many of the images that were uploaded reflected themes of sustainability and environmental responsibility.
“The 1970’s redevelopment of the HAAA Grounds struck a harmonious balance between emerging park design philosophy while maintaining the sport infrastructure that defines the property’s history.”

- Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report by ARA Ltd.

HAAA is listed on the City of Hamilton inventory of Cultural Heritage Landscapes. Sport has been in place at HAAA for over 150 years.

The west side of the park was developed in the 1970’s. The design of this space is representative of park design in Canada at that time, which coincided with the rise of landscape architecture as a profession. Design philosophy included the reintroduction of greening into urban areas while creating passive and mixed outdoor recreational spaces for urban residents.
HAAA: CANADA’S LEGACY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Those early principles – the idea of a balance of uses, a green space/natural surroundings and opportunities for exercise and outdoor enjoyment are also what we think about today when we design parks.

Some other things we think about are the quality of that green space, sustainability, accessibility, inclusion of native plant materials, and new technologies: some of the many issues that were shared in your comments and survey responses.
Key Take Aways:

- Maintain character of the park
- Overall Accessibility
- Balance passive and active play
- Increase shade: trees & structures
- Improve track and drainage
- Play facilities for all ages and abilities

Enhance neighbourhood connections:

- Park entrances at Duke and Tuckett,
- Shared path from Charlton Ave
- Streetscape enhancements at Charlton

Create Neighbourhood programming space:

- Seating throughout the park
- Gathering spaces
- Improve basketball play
DESIGN IS A BALANCING ACT

- Trees
- History
- Space
- Neighbourhood
- People
- Activities
- Budget
- Access
- Connections
- Neighbourhood

Design is a balancing act involving space, history, trees, budget, access, connections, and people, all of which need to be considered in the renewal plan.
DESIGN SUMMARY

- Spray pad is approximately same size as existing
- Spray pad and junior play area located in the vicinity of the existing playground
- As you move south, play features for older kids are located
- A new multi-use court is situated in the vicinity of the existing basketball courts
- The entry plaza at the south west end of the park flows eastward to the gathering space north of the park building
- Shade structures (2) are located in the entry plaza and near the spray pad
- New features are proposed along the Duke Street to Tuckett pedestrian pathway
- Adult fitness equipment at the north end of the field
- Skate-dot
NORTH - OPTION A

PLAZA DEFINES TUCKETT ST. ENTRY

INTEGRATED SPLASH PAD + JUNIOR PLAY

SENIOR PLAY

ADVENTURE PLAY

SKATE DOT

TREES SEPARATE EXERCISE AREA FROM FIELD + SHADE

COMMUNITY PROGRAM AREA (POLLINATOR GARDEN)

NEW BERMS WORK WITH EXISTING TOPOGRAPHY

SHARED PATH JOINS WITH TRACK

CROSSING POINTS PROTECT TREES

OMC Landscape Architecture
270 Sherman Ave. N, Suite 315-MILL
www.omcla.ca | 905.681.7604

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270 Sherman Ave. N, Suite 315-MILL
www.omcla.ca | 905.681.7604
SOUTH - OPTION A

COMMUNITY GATHERING & BBALL

ADVENTURE PLAY LINKED WITH BOULDERING

URBAN PLAZA

PLAZA CREATES VISUAL THRESHOLD FOR BIKES ENTERING PARK

EXISTING PLANTING BED

TREES CREATE SENSE OF ENCLOSURE

SOUTH - OPTION A
- Expanded spray pad with areas for younger children at south end near junior playground.
- Spray pad elements for older children at north end adjacent to play areas for older children.
- Sequence of activity for older kids/teens toward Tuckett Street with multi-use court and bouldering at the north end.
- Shared walkway rises in elevation to blend with existing berm.
- Raised pavilion/shade structure located at high point of the pathway. Views over children’s play areas to the west, and to the track to the east.
- The entry plaza at the south west end of the park distinctively separate from gathering place/patio at park building.
- Shade structure located in the entry plaza.
SOUTH - OPTION A

- Vantage point from pavilion to play area
- Integrated water play & Jr play
- Gathering space
- "A series of rooms"
- Elevated pavilion: thoroughway, overlook + visual focal point
- Existing planting bed
- Crossing points protect trees
- OMC Landscape Architecture
  270 Sherman Ave. N, Suite 315-MILL
  www.omcla.ca | 905.681.7604
The existing trees at HAAA are typical of park planting design of the 1970's. The renewal plan will introduce new native trees in the park.
The second part of the Cultural Heritage Report will include a review of the final HAAA design concept, and will provide commentary and guidance.

The park renewal concepts presented today build upon the legacy of sports in Hamilton spanning over 150 years, with some changes. The re-positioning of the new 350m track will allow for pedestrian connections across the north end of the park. The playing field is retained, and is smaller with potential for new features at both ends adjacent to the track.

The evolution and re-imagination of park design across Canada in the 1970’s was identified in the Cultural Heritage Report as a special feature at HAAA. The renewal concepts presented today respect the original design through the upgrading of existing features; while anticipating new ways to play and exercise.
PUBLIC COMMENTARY PERIOD

We ask that you review each of the concepts, and provide your comments on the ideas and items that you see. First, we ask that you review the general arrangements of proposed features. Second, we ask that you review individual elements which are preferred for inclusion in the final concept.

The final concept will be based on the ideas presented today, and community perspectives as to which elements are preferred. They will be combined into a single plan which will be presented at the next public meeting that will take place later this fall.
NEXT STEPS & DATES

**PRESENT CONCEPTS**

**PIC 1**
Feb 4, 6

- Concept Development
- Q&A
- Online Survey
- Idea Share
- Engagement Tool

**PIC 2**
June

- Renewal Plan Development
- ENGAGE HAMILTON Community Feedback

**PIC 3**
Sept

**PRESENT FINAL RENEWAL PLAN**

**PHASE 1**
FOCUSED ENGAGEMENT
WHY

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HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Register with Engage Hamilton:

https://engage.hamilton.ca/haaarenewal

- Ask a question.
- Contribute to the Guest Book

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Thank You for your continued participation!