

Sherwood Forest Park Revitalization Project – Public Meeting #2

Robert Bateman High School - Cafeteria

5151 New Street, Burlington ON

Tuesday, April 29th, 2014

7:00 – 9:00 pm

MEETING SUMMARY

On Tuesday April 29, 2014, approximately 70 people participated in the second public meeting for the Sherwood Forest Park Revitalization Project. At 7 pm, following a welcome from Councillor Paul Sharman, Ward 5, Rob Peachey from the City of Burlington and Ian Gray from MMM Group gave an overview presentation to bring participants up to speed on the process and the project. This presentation is available on the City website at: <http://cms.burlington.ca/Page9184.aspx#.U20-UvldWdj> Following the presentation there was a short question and answer session, followed by small table discussions and wrapping up with a full-room plenary session.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide an update on the project since the first meeting in 2012, to seek feedback on uses for the park and to discuss the feasibility of these uses.

The following summary is not a verbatim transcript; it is a summary of the key feedback shared by participants at the meeting and was circulated to participants in draft format prior to being finalized. Please note Appendix A. Meeting Agenda, Appendix B. Summary of Key Points from 2012 PIC 1 and Appendix C. Raw notes from the Public Meeting

Key Messages from Feedback Received

The following six messages emerged during the discussion. Detailed feedback follows.

- 1. Negative impact of the Fairview extension.** Participants expressed strong concern about the Fairview extension and the negative impact that it would have on the nature of the park.
- 2. Improve safety and reduce graffiti.** Improve safety in the park, especially at night time with lighting improvements as well as with improvements to the design of traffic to minimize pedestrian and vehicle intersection. Improve accessibility on the trails (particularly during Winter months) and design to support graffiti reduction and loitering, including consideration for a designated graffiti wall.
- 3. Expand Seasonal Use.** Ice skating was raised most frequently as a Winter use, Splash pads and water play were the most frequently raised Summer use.
- 4. Increase opportunities for community use of the park space.** Expand opportunities for non-programmed use of the park space, particularly via the addition of a basketball court and a skateboarding park. Maintain and expand as much public access to park space as possible.
- 5. Protect and enhance green space.** Plant additional trees and protect existing green space.
- 6. Ensure parking can accommodate programming.** Improve the location of the parking and the construction of the lot, with improvements such as paving and adding lines to the pavement.

QUESTIONS OF CLARIFICATION

After the project overview, participants asked several questions of clarification. **Comments or questions from participants are in bold.** *The project team's responses are in italics.*

- **Regarding the timeline, vision, guiding principles and constraints – where is the supporting documentation, I'd like to see it and how it relates to this work?** *Good question. We need a clear set of objectives and drawings, and these are derived from a multitude of considerations. Three key documents that are guiding this work are the Strategic Plan, the Parks and Recreation Cultural Asset Master Plan and the input from the first public meeting held in 2012.*
- **How much in capital funding has been allocated to this project in 2015 and onward?** *The funding is allocated in increments, there is a 10 year window but spending is authorized on an annual basis, we will follow up with additional details following the meeting. Note added by the project team following the meeting: Sherwood Revitalization budget forecast (for park and building) is \$5.8 Million over the next 3 years.*
- **Where exactly is dome three?** *Dome three is adjacent to and south of the other two domes.*
- **Does the City own any property on the north side of the train tracks?** *Yes, but this needs to be confirmed. Note added by the project team following the meeting: Confirmed.*
- **Who owns the woodlot?** *The City owns both the woodlot in the park and the woodlot south of the hydro corridor.*
- **What is the zoning for the woodlot south of the hydro corridor?** *Unsure, will follow up after the meeting. Note added by the project team following the meeting: This area is zoned as category "03", Open Space.*
- **What happens to the wildlife in the woodlot when construction or changes happen?** *One of the criteria the project team will use to assess design and construction is how to minimize any negative impact to the wildlife and the woodlot.*
- **What is the zoning for the land in the east end of the park, the vacant land, between Burloak and the soccer field?** *We believe it is zoned as commercial/industrial. We will confirm this following the meeting. Note added by the project team following the meeting: This area is zoned as category "S", Utility Services.*
- **Can there be lighting along the pathway, especially from the GO Train walking through the park?** *That's exactly the kind of advice we're here to get from you tonight, so we'll include that as part of your feedback.*
- **Are there specific developmental restrictions on the green land around the creek?** *The Halton Region Conservation Authority regulates the woodlot, it guides and restricts development in that area.*
- **Is this entire exercise offering a band-aid solution, or is it a blank slate to create an optimal solution from scratch?** *This is not about starting from a blank slate. The term revitalization is intended to reflect the approach here is to find opportunities for improvements to the existing park.*
- **Did you say that there will not be any additional sports uses added to the design?** *No. Certain sports uses, as identified on the map, will not be changing/are not open to influence for redesign.*
- **What is the definition of a City park vs. a Community Park?** *The project team will add that to the FAQ and circulate a response in the updated FAQ.*

DETAILED FEEDBACK AND ADVICE FROM PARTICIPANTS

Given the additional information presented tonight, are there any other uses to add?

Safety Features

- **Improve lighting in the park to support increased use by pedestrians, especially at night.** Many participants were supportive of adding additional lighting on the pre-existing trails and said that any paved pathway should have lighting. The hydro corridor (south) path was flagged as being particularly dark, in need of light. Participants suggested lighting that would mitigate light pollution into homes, with downward facing lights, and potentially motion-sensor lights. Given the use of the park to connect to the GO station, expand its use to support active transportation in the area.
- **Improve snow-clearing in the Winter to improve safety and accessibility.** The pathway near the baseball diamond is currently not accessible in the Winter.
- **Mitigate negative impacts of motorized vehicles on the path,** including dirt bikes.
- **Plant trees along the railway to create a buffer zone for the baseball diamonds.**
- **Implement any possible design features to minimize drinking and use of drugs in the woodlot.** One participant suggested the installation of security cameras.

Seasonal Uses

- **Expand Winter and Summer Use of the Park.** Many participants expressed an interest in expanding the Winter and Summer use of the park, an outdoor surface for skating recreationally (not for organized hockey use) was raised frequently, as was the addition of a splash pad and/or wading pool for Summer months.
- **Other suggested seasonal uses to support included cross-country skiing for the Winter and a basketball court for the summer.** One participant suggested a cricket-pitch. Another participant suggested the removal of the tennis courts to make additional space to support these (and other) uses.

Uses by Demographic

- **Add features to support young children and teenage park users.** For young children, the splash pad and additional play space (low-key, such as sand pits) were the most frequently cited additional uses. For teenagers, a skateboarding park and an area dedicated to graffiti were the top two ideas. There were several considerations raised regarding the skateboard park, including whether Sherwood is an appropriate location for a skateboard park element, how to locate it so it does not “take over” the park, and how to make sure it is in a safe place and does not encourage loitering, drinking or other activities. The key benefit of the graffiti park is that by creating a place for the graffiti it keeps it in the right place.
- **Support seniors’ activities in the park and building.**
- **Design for dogs in the park.** One participant suggested a fenced-in area for dogs; another suggested a free-run area for dogs. A key consideration to drive this design is how to guarantee safety for other park users, especially children, and how to minimize the negative impact of dog waste.
- **Consider student use of the park for cross-country running and ensure the design can continue to support this use.**

Amenities

- **Improve the parking design to support the programming in the park.** Several ideas were raised for improvements to address capacity, safety and efficiency of parking, including:
 - Paving, adding lines and properly designating the parking as gravel does not support efficient use of space.

- Expanding the parking areas into the grassed areas.
- Expand the East parking lot and get rid of the middle parking lot to minimize pedestrian/cyclist/automobile interaction.
- **Increase the number of washrooms in the park.**
- **Support community programming the building. Several considerations were raised, including:**
 - Keep the building as a multi-functional building; do not dedicate it to one use.
 - Hardwood floor is a key feature of the building to support specific uses, keep the hardwood floor.
- **Expand and improve the change room facilities for sports users,** particularly to support tournaments in the park.
- **Expand the seating facilities within the park,** both in terms of picnic tables and benches and seating for the sports facilities to provide more room for spectators.

Access to and within the Park

- **Create a pedestrian walkway within the park rather than the Fairview extension.**
- **Create access from the GO Train station to the park via a new bike and pedestrian path.**
- **Consider a shuttle service from the West to the East side of the park.** This would help move people around better, and would also support community members going to the mosque and would reduce parking requirements.

Natural Areas and Green Space/Greening Opportunities

- **Plant evergreens along residential areas.**
- **Expand the natural areas if possible.**
- **Reduce the amount of “fenced-in” areas of the park.**
- **Monitor and improve the water quality in Sheldon Creek.** One participant raised the issue of materials being dumped into the creek.
- **Consider a stewardship program in partnership with Friends of Sheldon Creek Watershed** to support the protection, enhancement and maintenance of the natural areas.

Other Considerations

- **Consider moving the Applewood Library to Sherwood Park to increase visibility and use.**
- **Design to mitigate the noise from the asphalt recycling facility to minimize impact on both residents and park users.**
- **Address the dumping of leaves and other materials that is occurring in the West parking lot.**

Do some of the uses identified in question one make more sense/seem more feasible than others? What potential challenges could come up related to those uses? And what ideas do you have, if any, to address them?

Safety Features

- **Improving lighting is a high-priority near-term opportunity.** There are design opportunities to minimize any potential challenges (light pollution can be addressed by direction of lighting, lighting downwards/from the ground etc.).
- **Operational and maintenance improvements are quick wins with a big impact on users.** Improving snow-removal, garbage pick-up and fixing cracks and improving the quality of the pavement and passageways enables more of the community to enjoy the park without the time delay associated with new construction.
- **Add a line on the pathways as a simple fix to reduce conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists.**

Uses by Demographic

- **Resolving the graffiti problem via the creation of a graffiti wall.** The issue is a large problem for the community and if dedicating space for it will reduce the impact it is worth priority consideration. One challenge raised is the potential to create an unsafe space, so the proper location of the graffiti park is a key factor to address. It was also suggested that the location of the graffiti park could be partnered with a skating space, creating safety via joint use of an area.
- **Creating a skateboard park for young people.** While there was support for this idea, the same issues were raised as with the graffiti park in terms of potentially creating an unsafe space, a negative impact on the community or a space that isn't used. One participant suggested a review of both West Oak Trails skate park (was removed within a year due to design/use issues) as an example of an unsuccessful park and Shell Park as a successful park. The item to consider to address these challenges is location – it was suggested that areas in busy routes have had success in the past.
- **Unstructured open play space is low-maintenance, low-cost and of use to both small children and their families as well as the broader community** i.e. users that are not in the park for programmed sport use. This type of open space requires minimal infrastructure support.

Process Suggestions

- **Improve the coordination of the sporting groups. This does not require any capital investment, rather personnel time to seek efficiency in when the space is used to improve congestion of the park.** The scheduling of tournaments should be spaced out better to minimize crowding and parking issues.
- **Use the community to help support stewardship of the park with volunteers.** Contact Vince Fiorito to get involved with annual clean-up efforts.

Seasonal Use

- **Wading pools are a highly feasible summer feature.**
- **Outdoor community ice rink for recreational skating is the highest priority desired use for the Winter.**
- **Consider a design that converts the Winter use (skating) to a summer use (open space/water play/baseball diamond) to address the challenge of limited space for seasonal use.**

Access to and within the park

- **Support uses in the park that can be accessed by people on foot, the traffic issues and lack of parking are top issues to address.** Do not make design decisions that will draw more cars to the park.
- **Emphasize access opportunities from the North (Burloak) to relieve congestion from the South,** especially the creation of a pedestrian option. Burloak access should be for the park only, not the strip mall.

Natural Areas and Green Space/Greening Opportunities

- **Planting trees is a feasible near-term improvement** to accomplish both a visual improvement for residents and supports improved mental health for residents and park users.
- **Design improvements to the woodlot that will keep people out of the forested areas to minimize trampling of plants.**

Other Considerations

- **Prioritize drainage solutions** – there are water run-off and drainage issues that need to be addressed.
- **Design to mitigate the noise from the asphalt recycling facility to minimize impact on both residents and park users.**
- **Address the dumping of leaves and other materials that is occurring in the East parking lot.**
- **Safety considerations extend to nighttime use of the park, not just the path.** Consider safety improvements for nighttime skateboarding, basketball and other uses.
- **Moving the library is admittedly a less feasible idea, but still an important issue to address.** Improved signage or other ideas to increase access and use of the library should be explored through other City channels.

ADDITIONAL WRITTEN FEEDBACK AND ADVICE FROM PARTICIPANTS

Feedback received via worksheets or by emails received after the meeting during the feedback period and not covered in the meeting summary above.

Given the additional information presented tonight, are there any other uses to add?

Seasonal Uses

- **Other uses suggested for the park included: additional hockey rink space, additional rugby field, volleyball, tennis, street hockey and badminton.**

Uses by Demographic

- **Locate the skate park so it is self-contained.** Do not allow the entire park to become a skate park.
- **Provide dedicated walls, railway tracks and a bridge for the graffiti park.** Provide garbage bins for spray cans. Consider the negative consequence that this park may bring more graffiti to the park, better to try and eliminate graffiti in the park entirely.
- **Do not create off-leash dog areas,** leash laws are not respected.

Natural Areas and Green Space/Greening Opportunities

- **Add more trees along the north edge of the park** next to the roadway.
- **Improve maintenance in the woodlot:** care of trail washouts and dead trees.
- **Ensure park design takes fire prevention and disease control into consideration if possible.**
- **Work with Burlington Green, Halton Region Conservation Authority and Friends of Sheldon Creek Watershed** to help select plants and explore funding for natural habitat restoration.

Amenities

- Improve the parking issues. Additional suggestions included:
 - Move the interior parking lot to the east soccer field.
 - Eliminate parking on Fairview on Fridays.
 - Provide more parking to support sports tournaments. Consider using the right of way for parking and/or the walkway from the north side of the tracks.

Safety Features

- **Change current lights to LED lights.** LED lights direct lighting better and reduce light spillage.
- **Add a baseball safety net to keep baseballs out of the train tracks.**

Do some of the uses identified in question one make more sense/seem more feasible than others? What potential challenges could come up related to those uses? And what ideas do you have, if any, to address them?

Amenities

- Addressing parking issues is critical as a priority.
- Improving the change rooms and washrooms is a high-priority.

Natural Areas and Green Space/Greening Opportunities

- Naturalize low-use areas of the park.
- Develop a long-term protection strategy for all natural areas.

Use by Demographic

- Basketball courts are low-cost and last for a long time.

Other Considerations and Advice on Location of Uses

- **Improve East Park functionality and appearance, modernize the park.** Look to West Oak Trails in Oakville for case study. One potential enhancement would be to consolidate the “beer tent” area with the washrooms.
- **Locate any dog areas in the east end away from other users,** though it’s preferable not to have any.
- **Consider locating the splash pad in the southwest part of the park next to the existing play area.**
- **Consider dual use to address limited space – a basketball court could double as a street-hockey zone.**
- **Consider locating the skate park in the east end, away from other users.**
- **Introduce equal pavilions at both ends of the park.**
- **Find space to relocate soccer field if required.**

Advice on Existing Infrastructure

- **Increase baseball diamond sizes to the 300 foot range.** This would attract more tournament possibilities therefore increasing revenue for the City.
- **Consider Astroturf for the small soccer field.** The grass can get too high for young players.
- **Make the domes more accessible.**
- **Remove the “No Trespassing” signs from the soccer fence.**

OTHER ADVICE

- **Consider public-private community-driven funding for the park as the park is at build-out.**
- **Limit the expansion of existing structures and explore the repurposing of existing structures.**
- **Modernize all items that are not listed as constraints,** particularly those in the New Park Centre West.
- **Encourage schools to use the park for school tournaments.**
- **Explore commercial opportunities (i.e. plaques) to educate users on the area’s heritage.**
- **Support fair use policy by sports organizations.**
- **Introduce a moratorium on development that cuts off public access to the park.**
- **Remove the asphalt plant.**
- **Keep BOSL informed on pavilion design for the east side, especially as BOSL donated the pavilion. Respect this original purpose in designs moving forward.**

- **The Harvester extension is problematic and the lack of a decision on this issue prior to designing the park is a problem.** Additional negative impacts that the community has raised include:
 - Noise
 - Reduction in property values
 - Idea is out of date with current traffic-planning best practices
- **Consider purchasing the piece of land on the east end of the study area.** The purchase of this land would help avoid the park becoming landlocked by other uses, including potential industrial use which would have a negative impact on the park.
- **Suggest that Associated Pavement (company on the east end of the park) complete their southern wall (build it up) to mitigate negative environmental impacts on the park and to park users.** In addition, suggest the planting of trees to further separate the industrial use from the park.

Next Steps

Bianca Wylie told participants that the summary notes would be distributed in draft for their review and encouraged everyone who was interested to sign up for the upcoming May 12th stakeholder meeting to be held at the Robert Bateman High School Cafeteria.

Appendix A. Meeting Agenda



Sherwood Forest Park Revitalization – Public Meeting #2

Robert Bateman High School - School Cafeteria

5151 New Street, Burlington

April 29th, 2014

7:00 – 9:00 pm

PROPOSED AGENDA

7:00 pm **Welcome – Councillor Paul Sharman, Ward 5**

7:05 **Introductions & Agenda Review**

Bianca Wylie, Facilitator, SWERHUN Facilitation & Decision Support

7:10 **Presentation/Participant Briefing**

Rob Peachey, Manager of Parks & Open Space, City of Burlington

Project Overview

Ian Gray, Project Lead, MMM Group

Work to Date, Existing Conditions, Next Steps

Facilitated questions of clarification

7:45 **Discussion**

Discussion Questions:

1. Given the additional information provided tonight, are there any other uses to add?
2. Do some of the uses identified in question one make more sense/seem more feasible than others?
3. What potential challenges could come up related to those uses? And what ideas do you have, if any, to address them?

Do you have any other advice or comments?

8:55 **Wrap up and Next Steps**

9:00 **Adjournment**

Appendix B. Summary of Key Points from 2012 PIC 1

Key Design Considerations from PIC #1

April 29, 2014

Related Process Decisions

1. Provide clear direction on the Fairview extension. This information is required to move forward with park revitalization. Is it going in?
2. Consider creating park access from Burloak.

Use of the Park

3. Include additional multi-use community space within the park. This space should support park users of all ages.
4. Protect and expand the amount of trees and green space.
5. Continue to support Rugby use of fields and the building for social use.
6. Include general passive use space for local residents (non-programmed).
7. There is a clear lack of residential community support for the Soccer Program of Excellence.

Key Criteria

8. Safety, especially in regards to a high volume of cars, is a key concern.
9. Mitigate negative impacts of traffic on the neighbourhood.
10. Ensure the path forward aligns with Burlington's strategic plan.
11. Minimize pollution and environmental impacts (pollution, light pollution).

Amenities

12. There is a lack of residential community support for Dome #3.
13. Improve the parking lots east of the creek. Consider removing one lot and expanding the other.
14. Expand benches/seating and playground use in the park.
15. Consider including additional amenities, such as tennis courts, splash pads and multi-use fields.
16. Minimize fencing of the artificial turf fields.
17. Keep the size of the buildings similar to what they are today.

Appendix C. Raw notes from the Public Meeting

bwylie@swerhun.com by May 6, 2014

Q1. Given additional info, uses to add:

- Safety for trains re: baseball diamonds – tree line back to create a buffer zone
- Plant evergreens along residential areas
- Lighting on the trails – for any paved pathways should be some kind of lighting especially pipeline path, too dark needs to be more - 7
- Appleby library, move it to Sherwood Park – move to the west end
- Ice rink – 8 – specifically outdoor ice rink
- Halton District SB does use Sherwood for cross-country cont to support
- Splash pad - 8
- Clear snow on walkways and wheelchair accessible – currently not accessible near diamonds
- Picnic tables
- Skateboard park - 4
- Graffiti park to keep it in the right place - 2
- Relation to play fields – seating/bleachers need to add seating facilities
- Play facilities, low-key things/sand pits - 2
- Parking lots should be fully paved and lined and designated – gravel parking does not support efficient use of space – 3 east/west
- Expansion of the parking areas into grassed areas - 2
- Change rooms for tournaments – adding more space for change rooms and better quality
- Shuttle service from West to East side of the park – move people around the park better, could also be used for people that use mosque
- Eliminate tennis courts – replace with day-use facilities (splash pads/expanded play grounds)
- Add bathrooms - 2
- Re: buildings – hardwood floor is a key feature, continue to provide hardwood floor in new facility
- Cricket pitch - 2
- Basketball - 3
- Reduce consumption of drugs/alcohol in the woodlot – any design to mitigate this, consider installation of security cameras
- Building – have it remain a multi-functional building not one sole use for building
- Mitigate noise from the asphalt recycling facility – residents and park (majority of room)
- Mitigate light pollution, concerned about impact of light pollution – minimize the light that shines directly on the home (consider motion-sensor lights) – worse in summer but all year round - 2
- West entrance parking lot is used as a dumping spot for leaves, etc. – 2
- Room for free-run area for dogs
- Fenced in area for dogs - 1
- Senior use of building

- Concern for motorized vehicles on the path, mobility devices, dirt bikes etc.
- Water quality in Sheldon Creek – something is being dumped into the Creek – left a black slick
- Friends of Sheldon Creek Watershed offer to partner for stewardship opps in the creek
- Create pedestrian walkway rather than extension for Fairview
- Reduce fenced in areas in the park, keep as much public access as possible
- Create access from GO Train station to park via bike path
- Expand East parking lot and get rid of the middle parking lot to avoid cars and pedestrians being together
- Expand the natural areas is possible

Q2/Q3. Some of the uses seem more feasible than others - Potential Challenges and how to address them:

- Lighting and trees – key issue, low-lighting – add more lighting not high and not facing backyard
- Less feasible, library idea
- Skateboarding and ice rink – community supported ice rink – graffiti park could go with the skate park (2) graffiti is a big problem in the community – it’s ok to suggest this idea – location/placement is critical, don’t want to create an unsafe space, use safety to consider in design
- Anything to do with safety (snow-clearing, lighting) now and the future – City tends to forget the passageways are used for dog walking, have cracks, not paved properly
- Winter use is a key component to consider – ice rinks should be outside (Bronte park style)
- Skate park too
- Don’t forget the multi-use piece of the park to support family use and broader community
- Greater use of the whole park during the Winter, ice rinks and trails cross-country skiing, any winter uses possible
- Greater emphasis on access from the North to relieve congestion from the South -= particularly a pedestrian option
- Programming should not attract more cars to the park – support uses that could be accessed by foot
- Have better coordination of the sporting groups – tournaments, try to space out tournaments and events (process suggestion)
- Finding a location for skateboard park has a lot of considerations to include in design, vandalism, inappropriate behaviours, lawn furniture going missing, etc.
Good locations, busy route, Hamilton. Good case study – West Oak Trails skate park, within 12 months torn out and moved.
- Skateboard park required due to lack of access
- Graffiti should be managed by having the graffiti park
Shell Park successful skate park area to consider.
- Remove the parking lots on the East, expand the other – reduce a lot of traffic to the inside of the park

- Burl oak drive access makes sense – support for that, Prince William and Burloak has big congestion issues
- Unstructured play areas (same as early)
- Wading pool and lighting improvements both highly feasible
- Trees along the railway track and buffer zone to residents, both good supporters of mental health. Water runoff area needs to be addressed
- Harvester road connection continues to be a challenge, has a big impact
- Major concerns about nighttime safety, skateboard, basketball,
- Suggestion for line on trail to separate walking traffic and bike traffic
- Poor drainage issues throughout park
- Washroom for the kids
- Lighting on pathways for safe use
- Improving parking lots
- Improve traffic
- Trampling issues in natural issues, keep people out of woodlots
- Annual community clean-up green-up – contact Vince to help out
- Bodies help support clean-up
- Ice rinks for recreational skating